Fulbright Association and Fulbright Academy join forces

THE BOARDS OF DIRECTORS of the Fulbright Association and the Fulbright Academy are pleased to announce that effective July 1, 2013 they have entered into a relationship for joint programming and operations within the framework of the Fulbright Association.

This arrangement recognizes the action-oriented focus of the Academy and is intended to lead to the integration of the Fulbright Academy and its programming activities within the overall Association structure by December 31, 2013.

Senator J. William Fulbright encouraged alumni to create an active constituency for promoting and building the Fulbright Program, which we have broadened through this alliance. He wanted alumni to educate members of Congress and the public about the benefits of advancing mutual understanding between the people of the United States and those of other countries. He also wanted U.S. alumni to welcome and to exchange ideas with Fulbrighters from abroad.

Senator Fulbright traveled from Arkansas to the United Kingdom on a Rhodes scholarship and valued the welcome and support he received while he studied away from home, which the Fulbright Association provides to returning and visiting Fulbrighters from around the world.

Both groups strongly feel that the worldwide Fulbright community will greatly benefit from a single administrative body overseeing both alumni and programming activities. We also believe our collective efforts will lead to greater progress in service to the Fulbright community.

Both bodies reaffirm their shared commitment to the ideals of the late Senator J. William Fulbright and the Exchange Program named in his honor. Harriet Mayor Fulbright commented that she is “thrilled that going forward the Fulbright community will be served by a unified alumni support organization.”

36TH ANNUAL FULBRIGHT CONFERENCE

Congressman Jim Moran to address opening plenary

IT IS OUR GREAT PLEASURE to welcome Congressman Jim Moran to address the Fulbright Association conference during the opening plenary session. He is currently serving his 12th term as U.S. Representative from Virginia’s 8th District, comprised of the Cities of Alexandria and Falls Church, Arlington County, and portions of Fairfax County, including Lee, Mason, Providence, Mt. Vernon and Dranesville Districts.

A senior member of the Appropriations Committee, Moran serves as the Ranking Member on the Subcommittee on the Interior and Environment and also serves on the Defense and Legislative Branch Subcommittees. Throughout his two decades of service in the House of Representatives, Moran has demonstrated vigorous leadership in support of regional transportation solutions, the environment, women’s issues, technology, fair and open trade, and fiscal discipline. He is also well known for his efforts to protect federal employees and military retirees.

Congressman Moran has left his mark on the region by boosting investments in federal research and development, particularly in Northern Virginia’s defense and technology sector which generate high paying jobs. He has successfully advanced procurement reform at the Pentagon, helped authorize and fund replacement of the Woodrow Wilson Memorial Bridge and played an instrumental role in resolving the 1991 real estate credit crunch. He has advocated reducing harmful emissions from this region’s antiquated coal-fired power plants, protecting green space and green infrastructure and restoring local streams to a more natural state.

He continues to receive some of the highest ratings from the League of Conservation Voters and organizations committed to animal protection, gun control and human rights.

He serves as co-chair of the Congressional Prevention Coalition, Congressional Animal Protection Caucus and heads the Task Force on Sovereign Wealth Funds, which was established to study issues surrounding sovereign wealth funds and their potential to affect geopolitics and the U.S. and international economies. In the mid-90’s, Congressman Moran co-founded the New Democratic Coalition, a group of approximately 50 House Democrats committed to fiscal responsibility, free and fair trade, technology, and maintaining America’s security and economic competitiveness.
The Fulbright Association throws reception for Hillary Clinton

THE FULBRIGHT ASSOCIATION was proud to sponsor a reception for former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton in honor of her service to the Fulbright community and to recognize the renaming of the Fulbright Public Policy Fellowship, now named the J. William Fulbright - Hillary Rodham Clinton Fellowship. Hosted and co-sponsored by the Wilson Center, the event was attended by many Fulbright alumni, representatives of the State Department, members of the Fulbright Foreign Scholarship board, and 23 fellows who are about to embark on their Fulbright experience. The Association was represented by Executive Director, Steve Reilly, Board President, John Vogel, several other national board members, representatives from the national capital area chapter board, Fulbright Association staff, and our favorite lady of Fulbright, Ms. Harriet Fulbright. We are very happy to continue the Fulbright legacy and ensure it is here for generations to come. In her remarks, Hillary Clinton said:

“The Fulbright Public Policy Fellowship was officially renamed this year the J. William Fulbright-Hillary Rodham Clinton Fellowship (Fulbright-Clinton Fellowship) in recognition of Secretary Clinton’s leadership in public service and commitment to the ideals of the Fulbright Program.”

OREGON CHAPTER

Nelsen: Curiosity is the key to successful education

PAMELA NELSEN, during her one-year Fulbright experience in Denmark, discovered perhaps the most essential knowledge that a teacher should have: Learning happens everywhere, for those willing to accept it.

For Nelsen, curiosity is the key component to successful education. As a matter of fact, curiosity is what granted her the opportunity to become a Fulbright recipient. At an after-hours tour on Blake Island at an NEA meeting in Seattle, Washington, Nelsen wandered away from her group to admire the culture of the Native Americans living there. Her passion for history, culture, and literature had her stranded in the gift shop as the rest of her group members headed back to the conference. The man who found her lost in the cultural exhibit, experiencing her undeniable joy and respect of the native culture, happened to be the same man who was responsible for reviewing the applications for the Washington Teacher Exchange program.

As a Mythology and Literature teacher, Nelsen felt that it was her duty and responsibility to actually see the history that she was teaching in her classroom. So, on a mission to better herself as an educator, she embarked on her Fulbright journey to Denmark.

When she arrived there, she was astonished by the linguistic capabilities of her neighbors and colleagues. In Denmark, “where people live in a country the size of one of our states, they have to know all these languages” says Nelsen. Adapting to the many languages and cultural differences, teaching in Denmark made her appreciate diversity both in the country and in the classroom. Although she did not speak Danish, she was able to communicate her fascination and love of education with her students and celebrate the many different cultures of Denmark by creating an International Dinner Club. During the interview, Nelsen explained it this way: “I could not possibly understand how different we are…without walking in somebody else’s shoes.”

She says that traveling alone really allowed her to be immersed in the culture and meet influential people. On one trip in particular, Nelsen found herself traveling in the footsteps of one of the Greek Gods that she taught about at home; King Minos. She travelled to Crete and was able to not only see the castles of the Minos brothers, but also meet another group following mythological pathways. This group happened to be the MIT Daedalus ’88 group, who were attempting to recreate the journey of the mythological inventor of aviation, Daedalus, from Crete to Santorini in a human-powered aircraft. Nelsen also met another remarkable person during her Fulbright experience, a doctor from East Germany. He told her his heartbreaking story of bringing his family across the Berlin Wall and having to face adversity constantly.

This experience shaped Pamela into the teacher and human being that she would continue to be for the rest of her life; embracing diversity, curiosity, and love for her students. She is now writing a novel to tell her fascinating story.
BY DAVID S. POWELL*

BENJAMIN LAWSON AND Mary STERNER LAWSON have lived an expansive life. As longtime literature professors, their world has often seemed limitless—unconstrained by geography, by race, even by early personal experience. Theirs is a life of the imagination.

Yet few would have predicted such a life for them. Ben Lawson grew up in the 1950s and early 1960s, working on the family farm near Wabash in north-central Indiana. His father was a Purdue graduate, and Ben himself began his college career in West Lafayette as a math major.

He did well enough, but something was missing from the equation. Ben learned that his real joy came not from the numbers he crunched, but from the novels he read, from the opera performances he attended, from the art exhibits he viewed.

“I was a late bloomer,” Ben recalls. “As soon as I got to college and really began to understand what it was all about, I loved it. The interaction in the classroom, the new ideas and new cultural activities...I just became inspired. College transformed me completely.”

Ben switched his major from math to English and never looked back. He earned a bachelor’s degree in American and English literature from Purdue in 1967, and enrolled immediately in a master’s program in English at IU. After earning a master’s degree at IU Bloomington, he accepted a teaching fellowship at Bowling Green State University.

He spent the next four years on the northwest Ohio campus, teaching composition and literature classes while working on his Ph.D. in American literature. And while at Bowling Green, Ben made another life-changing discovery: He met Mary Sterner—a Findlay, Ohio, native who was obviously a kindred spirit. Mary, already a talented artist, had earned an English degree from the University of Findlay and was at Bowling Green to do graduate work.

This well-matched pair—lifelong Midwesterners with a sweeping world view—soon married and began a long, shared career in academia and the arts. Over the years, their work took them to Finland, England, and the Netherlands, thanks to Ben’s two Fulbright Scholar Program awards and host university invitations. It also led Mary to China and Brazil—the result of her two Fulbright-Hays Study Program grants. Along the way, Mary also spent a summer at IU Bloomington, thanks to a National Endowment for the Humanities fellowship in 1987.

 Husband-and-wife teams are rare enough in any college English department, but the Lawsons’ career path was unusual in another way. Though both are white Midwesterners, the Lawsons spent essentially their entire academic careers—a combined 63 years—at Albany State University, a Historically Black College/University (HBCU) in southwest Georgia.

They arrived at Albany State in 1972, when Ben landed an assistant professorship. Mary secured a temporary position and taught classes for two years before completing her doctorate.

“For us, coming to Albany State had nothing to do with making a statement, nothing to do with race,” Ben insists. “We were just looking for work. It was about not only a job, but two jobs.”

Certainly, when the Lawsons accepted those jobs, they were aware that their students would be almost exclusively African-American. “We just didn’t think it made much difference,” Mary says. “We felt completely comfortable teaching anybody because we were so absorbed with our subject matter. We loved our students, they loved us, and we had a great experience there.”

Still, Albany State was a learning experience for the Lawsons as well as for the thousands of students who enrolled in their classes. In Mary’s case, it led to the writing of an oral history of an African-American community and work on the board of the Albany Civil Rights Institute. Ben shares some of those lessons in his memoir, Doors: Reflections on an HBCU Career, which was published in 2010.

“In a way, being white professors in an African-American world taught us a great deal about being ‘black,’ about being in the minority.” Ben says. One important lesson was to reject the “common white Midwestern notion that race is insignificant. The idea that one can forget race, ignore race—that idea is available only to people with power.”

Mary shares a telling anecdote that illustrates this power dynamic. Soon after their arrival in Albany, while searching for an apartment, the Lawsons told a prospective landlord—a genteel, white, middle-aged Southerner—that they were “professors at Albany State College.”

At first the woman automatically assumed they were employed by the predominately white Albany Junior College. When the Lawsons explained they taught at Albany State, they could see an immediate change in her demeanor and attitude.

“In a way,” Mary recalls, “because we worked at Albany State we were seen as black by association.”

Traditional attitudes and definitions of power have never meant much to the Lawsons. For them, what matters is using the arts to explore what it means to be “merely human,” as Ben says in the pages of Doors.

That humanist quest has marked the Lawsons’ professional life. And though they’re now retired from Albany State and live in Tallahassee, Florida, the quest continues through teaching, writing, and, for Mary, through the visual arts.

Ben serves as an adjunct professor at Florida State University, often teaching courses in African-American literature and continuing to work with the Fulbright program. He also lectures and writes poetry, plays, and literary scholarship. Mary continues to advance her career as an artist through her Have Pen Will Travel Studio. Her watercolors and distinctive pen-and-ink sketches have been shown at many public exhibits, and she’s created artworks and edited several publications, including a popular series of travel guidebooks.

“I always told my students that the liberal arts are the real beginning,” Mary says. “They’re the foundation on which you build the majority of your life.”

*This article originally appeared in The College magazine, College of Arts and Sciences, Indiana University.
GROWING UP IN New Zealand, I was exposed to the moving world of multiculturalism at a very young age. Being as young as I was, I could notice subtle differences in the way that the different people communicated and carried themselves, but not much more.

As I grew older, I became actively interested in discovering what made people so different. I remember one event in particular where I was mesmerized by the beauty of the Maori culture.

When I was about eight years old, a native Maori woman invited me onto the stage of one of their traditional dance ceremonies, the name of which I cannot recall. What I can remember is feeling absolutely no hesitation in my step as I advanced toward that platform. Dancing with those women at eight years old changed my life forever. I fell in love with everything about New Zealand: the culture of the Maoris, the architecture of the Europeans, and the language of the Chinese, seemingly all at once. I wanted more, more, more of the diversity, the dances, the language, and the togetherness.

I have made it a point since moving to the United States to embrace and enjoy the very many differences amongst the people here, especially the students. I am currently pursuing a degree in English to teach English as a second language and thinking about it even now makes me smile.

I am blessed to be able to know so young what I want to do for the rest of my life, and my experience here at the Fulbright Association has only furthered my assurance.

When I tell the people here what I plan on doing after graduation, they all light up, nod their heads, and smile a little; not only because we are friends and co-workers, but because they believe wholeheartedly in embracing education, diversity, and the human experience.

When preparing for my internship in May, my expectations could be summarized by every textbook example of the D.C. internship; I would be making coffee, filing papers, and doing the important people’s excess work.

Well, I have only made coffee once, I haven’t had to pick up any laundry, and I have no paper cuts. Instead, I have learned how to use graphic design software, met Harriet Fulbright, given interviews to incredible scholars, worked with chapters, and learned how to manage database transfers in Excel, made sponsorship requests, and exposed myself to some of the brightest minds in the world.

My experience with the Fulbright Association was less like an internship and more like a gift.

As a member of the Fulbright Association, I hope you know how much you are cherished, both by the wonderful men and women working in this office and by people like me, who get the privilege to read some of your stories. I am sad to be leaving after such a short time, but I am happy now to have six thousand role models.

TESTIMONIAL: INTERN LAUREN NIELSON

Ashley Stephens (Intern-Trinidad and Tobago), Harriet Fulbright and Lauren Nielson (New Zealand).

My Fulbright summer

FOR A SMALL COUNTRY NEW ZEALAND HAS EVERY TERRAIN IMAGINABLE

With a population of over 4,143,279 inhabitants, the entire country of New Zealand is only 104,454 square miles. But it is home to a vast variety of landscapes. From beautiful glaciers like the Tasman Glacier near Christchurch to the rolling mountains like the Southern Alps with the highest point reaching 12,316 feet above sea level. There is also plenty of hillsides, plains, even subtropical forests on the North Islands.

New Zealand is also home to multiple volcanoes on both of the main islands, and of course, miles and miles of coast line and sandy beaches. It is not surprising that New Zealand is the new hot spot for Hollywood movies like the successful trilogy The Lord of the Rings and a tourist destination for travelers around the world.

Map Source: WORLD TRAVELS.COM

Designed by NOELIA PEÑA
The U.S. Institute of Peace (USIP) is a congressionally established federally-funded institution devoted to the nonviolent prevention and mitigation of deadly conflict abroad. USIP works directly in the world’s most deadly conflict zones to promote peacebuilding. USIP sponsors two fellowship programs that might be of interest to Fulbrighters.

The Jennings Randolph Peace Scholarship Dissertation Program awards scholarships to students at U.S. universities who are writing doctoral dissertations with clear relevance for policy and practice in the field of international peacebuilding and conflict management. The deadline to apply to be a 2014-2015 peace fellow is December 13, 2013 and the application can be found HERE.

The USIP Grant Program increases the breadth and depth of the Institute’s work by supporting peacebuilding projects managed by non-profit organizations including educational institutions, research institutions, and civil society organizations. In over twenty-five years of grantmaking, the grant competition have received almost 11,000 applications and awarded some 2,200 grants for research, training, education, Track II, media and other programs to prevent, manage, and resolve violent conflict and consolidate post-conflict peace, stability and development. The Institute has provided funding to grantees located in 47 U.S. states and the District of Columbia and in 87 countries around the world. The deadline for the USIP Annual Grant Competition is October 1, 2013. The application can be found HERE.

AN EX-OFFICIO, nonvoting member of the Board of Trustees and chairperson of the 2006-2010 sessions of the City University of New York (CUNY) University Faculty Senate, Dr. Manfred Philipp is professor and past department chair of chemistry at Lehman College and professor in the biochemistry and chemistry doctoral programs at the CUNY Graduate Center. As a Fulbright scholar in 2005, Dr. Philipp taught bioinformatics and biopharmaceuticals at the Catholic University of Portugal. In his Fulbright in 2012-2013, he did research on multidrug resistant bacteria at the Patan Academy of Health Sciences in Kathmandu, Nepal.

He received his Ph.D. in biochemistry from Northwestern University and his bachelor’s degree in chemistry from Michigan Technological University. Dr. Philipp has been program director for the National Institutes of Health (NIH)-supported, research-based student support programs Minority Biomedical Research Support (MBRS), Minority Access to Research Careers (MARC), and the High School Summer Research Apprentice Program. He was co-program director of the NIH-supported Bridges to the Baccalaureate at Bronx Community College and Lehman College. He has also served as national president of the MBRS/MARC Program Directors Organization.

FOUNDER OF CAPITAL Resolution, Inc., a firm that provides interim management and operations improvement services, John F. Ausura has more than 25 years’ experience as a senior executive in Fortune 100 and mid-cap companies, with special expertise in designing and executing strategies that enhance value for creditors and shareholders and in returning distressed and underperforming companies to long-term health.

A Certified Turnaround Professional, Ausura has played major roles in successful turnarounds. His corporate experience includes CertainTeed Corporation, General Foods, Campbell Soup, PNC Bank, Godiva Chocolates, Day Runner, Outsource International, Talent Tree, Bell Sports, and Airwalk International. He has held interim and permanent positions as chief executive officer, president, chief operating officer, and chief financial officer, among others. Ausura earned his MBA in finance from the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania and his bachelor’s degree from the University of Scranton.

He was a Fulbright fellow in Germany in 1975.

Taking as its focus the French Revolution, this book explores how the experience in France influenced the emergence of electoral democracy, arguing—contrary to recent revisionist studies—that it was indeed the progenitor of modern representative democracy. Rejecting the revisionist semiotic approach to political culture; it instead adopts a definition emphasizing the shared values that govern political behavior, arguing that the Revolution’s essential contribution to modern political culture is its concept of citizenship, embracing widespread political participation.

In a broader sense, the book studies the grass-roots democracy, focusing on participation in the primary and secondary electoral assemblies. It is primarily concerned with electoral behavior and practices: how can we explain the electoral process and its results? It analyzes electoral procedures and practices, and voter turnout, based on extensive quantitative data. While focused on political history, this work also examines political sociology, giving careful attention to the occupational composition of elected officials.

Whilst acknowledging the democratic shortcomings of the French Revolution (the absence of political parties, electoral campaigns, and declared candidates), the book’s comprehensive study of revolutionary elections concludes that, together with its American counterpart, the French Revolution did indeed give birth to modern electoral democracy. As such, this book is essential reading for historians, political scientists, sociologists and readers interested in the origin of modern liberal democracy.

Priscilla J. (“Sally”) Mattison, of counsel to Bernard M. Resnick, Esq., P.C., has earned the LEED A® Homes professional credential. Also a photographer, Mattison studied at the Technical University of Berlin in then-West Berlin on a Fulbright in 1982.

TEDxFulbright getting ready for 2014 conference

TED is a nonprofit devoted to ideas worth spreading. It started out (in 1984) as a conference bringing together people from three worlds: Technology, Entertainment, Design. Since then its scope has become ever broader. Along with two annual conferences—the TED Conference on the West Coast each spring, and the TEDGlobal conference in Edinburgh UK each summer—TED includes the award-winning TED Talks video site, the Open Translation Project and TED Conversations, the inspiring TED Fellows and TEDx programs, and the annual TED Prize.

The TEDx program gives communities, organizations and individuals the opportunity to stimulate dialogue through TED-like experiences at the local level. TEDx events are planned and coordinated independently.

Seldom do two independent concepts connect as well as Fulbright and TEDx. The Fulbright Scholarship Program nurtures mutual understanding and respect across cultures by the exchange of compassionate, socially aware individuals, serving as ambassadors across all fields of professional engagement. TEDx, similarly, has shown immense promise in furthering ideas for the benefit of all societies in a way that is both personable (revolutionary story-telling) and powerful (demonstrating incredible feats of intellect, creativity, and collaboration). It is our continuing wish to provide Fulbright alumni with a TEDx framework to most effectively excite and gather others to join efforts in working for the sake of humanity’s progress.

The TEDxFulbright team recruitment is complete. The group is nothing short of magnificent. Many high level applications were received and a brilliant group of four core organizers were selected. In addition, an extended team of coordinators was generated for various aspects, such as graphic and web design, and a dedicated group of advisors (all accomplished academic professionals) for each organizational pillar. See team structure image with names and portraits of each member.
Louis Roth Endowment
Coindreau Prize goes to Nicholas Richard

On June 25, the Coindreau Translation Prize was awarded to Nicholas Richard for his masterly translation of Russell Hoban’s novel, Riddley Walker, which he entitled Enig Marcheur. The award ceremony was hosted in Paris by the Société des Gens de Lettres in its 19th-century mansion at the top of the Jardins du Luxembourg.

The Coindreau Prize is funded by the Lois Roth Endowment, which commemorates the life of Fulbrighter Lois Roth. It was founded and is managed by a group that includes many Fulbright alumni. The Roth Endowment seeks to deepen international dialogue through supporting research, cultural diplomacy and literary translation, a crucial means to gain insight into and understanding of other cultures.

The Coindreau Prize was established in memory of Princeton University professor Maurice-Edgar Coindreau (1892-1990), the renowned translator who introduced American authors—such as Faulkner, Steinbeck, Hemingway and Dos Passos—to French readers and authored The Time Of William Faulkner: A French View Of Modern American Fiction.

Nicholas Richard, left, has himself translated the works of many American authors, including Thomas Pynchon, Hunter Thompson, Philip K. Dick, Art Speigelman and Richard Brautigan. An author in his own right, Richard has published in a variety of forms, including a novel (Les Cailloux Sacrés, 2002), essays (Weekend en Couple avec Handicap, 2005), a treatise (Les Soniques, 2009) and worked with Quentin Tarantino on the French sections of Inglourious Basterds.

Russell Hoban, who died in December 2011, was known for the spectrum of genres in which he wrote, including a very popular children’s series; Riddley Walker, his award-winning 1980 science fiction novel, presents a particular challenge to the translator, as its first-person narration is conducted in a language Hoban created.

For more information on the Lois Roth Endowment go to www.rothendowment.org or email Richard T. Arndt, at dickarndt@gmail.com.

Gateway Orientation programs provide new students with Fulbright Program overview

By Jesús Méndez

One of the first events newly arriving Fulbright foreign students can attend in the United States is a Gateway Orientation Program hosted by a number of American institutions of higher learning located throughout the United States and sponsored by the U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA) and designed by the Institute of International Education (IIE) in cooperation with the ECA.

The Gateway orientations — usually lasting five days with three core days of seminars and activities sandwiched in by an arrival and departure day on either end — provide new students with an overview of the Fulbright Program and introduce them to the U.S. academic system and U.S. culture and to their rights and responsibilities as exchange visitors.

For the year 2013, ten Gateway orientations were held at nine institutions of higher learning throughout the month of August and the second week of September. Miami-Dade College held its tenth Fulbright Gateway Orientation on August 19-23 at its Wolfson Campus in downtown Miami, hosting 70 incoming Fulbright students representing 42 countries. So as to provide Fulbright students with as broad an experience as possible while visiting the United States, students are invited to attend Gateway orientations distant from their chosen university assignments. Most students attending the orientation in Miami will travel to universities in the Northeast and some to universities in the Midwest, Dorothy Avondstondt, Professor of ESL at Miami Dade College and Director of Fulbright Gateway Orientation, and Rosalie Kolesar, Professor of ESL at Miami Dade College and Assistant Director of Fulbright Gateway Orientation, acted as hosts and coordinators of the Gateway speakers, sessions, and staff.

Dr. Rolando Montoya, Provost of Miami Dade College, and Dr. Billy Jones, Dean of Academic Affairs at Miami Dade College, gave the official welcome remarks, and Angela Woods from the U.S. Department of State, and Mrs. Betty Castor, long time Florida resident and a member of the J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board, gave an overview of the Fulbright Program.

Among the invited guests to the Fulbright Gateway at Miami Dade College was Jesús Méndez, Vice-President of the South Florida Chapter of the Fulbright Association, who addressed the student group and introduced them to the work of the association. He informed the students that U.S. alumni and friends of the Fulbright Program, working through chapters of the association throughout the country and located in areas where the students will be studying and living, act as advocates for and as goodwill ambassadors of the program. He encouraged the students to look up in the association’s website, www.fulbright.org, the Fulbright Association chapter in the region of their final destination and to contact it as soon as possible and to participate in the chapter’s activities. He ended by noting that, as student grantees, they now also act as goodwill ambassadors working on behalf of the Fulbright Program both in the United States and in each of their own home countries.
TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE FA’s new automatic renewal memberships

Did you misplace your renewal notice? Were you absolutely sure you renewed, only to find out you didn’t? Don’t worry, the Fulbright Association is offering a new benefit that will make sure you stay current on your membership. Our new Automatic Renewal, or “Auto Renew,” feature will renew your membership each year with the credit card information you provide until you ask us to stop.

What does automatic renewal mean?
If you signed up as an individual, senior, or student member online, your payment information will be saved and your membership will be automatically renewed on your membership expiration date. No need to log on, we’ll do all the work for you!

Is my credit card information safe?
Yes, our database provider encrypts all payment information for your safety and complies with all government regulations regarding your information’s safety.

What if I want to change my membership type? I am currently a Student member, but now I need to switch to an Individual membership.
To change your membership type you can log in to your profile prior to your expiration date and renew with the new desired membership. If you need help, please don’t hesitate to contact us at 202.775.0725 or info@fulbright.org

I forgot my username and password to log into my profile; how do I get that information?
If you forgot both your username and password, please email us at info@fulbright.org or call 202.775.0725. If you have your username, but forgot your password, click on the “Forgot your password?” link in the Sign In box on any page of the website. You will be prompted to change your password after entering your username.

I am currently a member of the Fulbright Association and I would like to have my membership automatically renewed. How do I do that?
If you are currently a member and you would like to have your membership renewed, just renew online next time, select the category you want that indicates it is the automatic renewal option, and you will automatically be renewed from that point forward with the credit card information you supplied at the time of renewal. For example, if you currently have an Individual Annual membership, you would select the “Individual Annual – Auto Renew” option.

I received a notice that my auto renewal was declined, what happened?
Has your credit card information changed? Has your credit card expired? Check your card to determine if any information has changed. If so, log into your profile, click on the Memberships section and click the most recent invoice created for your renewal. Change the payment information within the renewal and submit again. If you continue to experience issues, contact us at 202.775.0725 or info@fulbright.org.

What if my credit card information has changed?
How can I update it in my profile?
To update your credit card information, log into your profile, click on the Memberships section and click the most recent invoice created for your renewal (the Status should read “Open”). Change the payment information within the renewal invoice and that information will be used for your next renewal.

What do if I do if I renew with the automatic renewal option and then decide I don’t want to be on it anymore?
If you wish to be taken of the automatic renewal option, please contact us at 202.775.0725 or info@fulbright.org and we’ll change your membership category immediately.

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