Fulbright in Action
AT THE 36TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE

FULBRIGHT ALUMNI FROM over 35 countries gathered in Washington, DC in October for FA’s 36th Annual Conference, “Fulbright in Action.”

This year’s conference saw a change in the Association’s conference programming style. Presentations were under five tracks addressing how Fulbrighters were taking action to address issues of the day: Business and Entrepreneurship, Human Rights and Social Justice, Science and Technology, Arts and Humanities; and Global Public Health.

Fulbright academics, medical doctors, actuaries, artists, researchers, chemists, students and scholars (among many others) connected around the crucial goal of turning the Fulbright experience into a life-long commitment.

Congressman Jim Moran gave his plenary address on the importance of international exchange, reminding us that we are an important group and must be powerful advocates for the Fulbright program and for meaningful US engagement abroad. David Bradley took up this message Friday night from a more personal angle, recounting in the State Department’s stunning diplomatic reception rooms how his Fulbright year in the Philippines led to a consistent commitment to projects in the country.

Conference panels this year touched on themes that resonated with attendees across fields. Participants were particularly inspired by Alice Bluemenfeld’s Selma Jeane Cohe lecture: an interactive investigation into the true roots of Flamenco — beyond its commercial and politically fabricated origin stories.

The two lunch presentations proved more provocative; the audience was thrilled to have Civil Rights icon James Meredith in the room, who delivered and impassioned message about educating today’s youth guided by his faith in God. Audience members found that the gender equality lunch, introduced by Lean In’s Sheryl Sandberg, opened a fruitful discussion about the “Missing Voice” of men in the gender debate while some people questioned the purpose of an all-male panel.

Other presentations included a discussion on the relevance of a liberal arts education in the 21st century economy with Pitzer College president Laura Trombley, George Mason University’s President Angel Cabrera and Gallup Education’s Brandon Busteed and panels on “The Challenges of Healthcare in Africa,” “The Global Challenge in Cybersecurity” and “Achieving Diversity in the Fulbright program.”

The conference closed with the screening of two documentaries, Kristin Pichaske’s Zuluhoops and Jeremy Xido’s Death Metal Angola, that spoke to the huge and important impact of cultural exchange, whether it was through basketball or heavy metal music.

The screening of these documentaries highlighted a point raised throughout the conference, that one way the Fulbright Association can make a difference is by providing a platform for Fulbright artists, who help to keep alumni connected to an international community and each other through the power of their work.

Have something newsworthy? Email shaz.akram@fulbright.org
SCENES FROM
THE 36th ANNUAL
CONFERENCE

Fulbrighters enjoying the opening reception

Matilda Vallejos, Eniko Csomay, Tom Healy, Manfred Phillip, John Ausura, John Vogel, Susan Ness, Evan Ryan, Lisa Helling and Herma Williams.

Maya Minter and James Meredith

Participants listening to the panel on cybersecurity

Fulbrighters networking at opening reception

Brandon Buseed, Laura Trombley and Angel Cabrera presenting at the annual conference
Disability Awareness Month takes place in October

WE CELEBRATE DISABILITY Awareness Month every October in an effort to highlight the wide-ranging abilities of people who may otherwise be considered “disabled.” According to the U.S. Census, approximately one-third of American households have a member who has a disability.

The National Clearinghouse on Disability and Exchange and the U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA) encourages the participation of people with disabilities in Fulbright programs to reflect diversity and provide overseas opportunities to qualified people regardless of disability. As needed, disability-related accommodations such as adaptive computers, personal assistants or sign language interpreters have been provided to Fulbright award recipients. To view more amazing stories of Fulbrighters click HERE.

Dr. Christie L. Gilson was appointed to the Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board by President Obama in March 2012. She is an Assistant Professor of Education at Moravian College in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania. She has authored numerous peer-reviewed journal articles and book chapters in special education and disability studies. She was awarded a Fulbright to study higher education for students with disabilities in Hong Kong in 2006. Dr. Gilson, who is blind, teaches English to blind adults in China using Voice over IP (VoIP), and has mentored youth with disabilities in Germany, China, Hong Kong, Singapore, Spain, Taiwan, and the United States. She received a B.S.W. from Illinois State University and an M.S.W. and Ph.D. from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

Fulbright Classroom Teacher Exchange Program discontinued

THE FULBRIGHT CLASSROOM Teacher Exchange Program has been discontinued, beginning with the 2014-2015 academic year. No new applications are being accepted for this program.

This decision was announced in the spring to the Fulbright Commissions currently participating in the program, but was announced more broadly over the summer. As could be expected, many of the alumni of this program were saddened and dismayed to see this 64 year old program end.

Recent budget cuts due to the federal sequester and an uncertain budget environment are seriously threatening a number of federally funded programs, including the appropriations for academic exchanges that fund the broader Fulbright program. The Fulbright Association is the only organization uniquely positioned to advocate on behalf of this funding and we therefore strongly encourage you to join the Association if you are not already a member click here and to make a contribution click here, which will allow us to build our efforts to ensure that the Fulbright program is preserved for future generations.

“Dare to Think,” TEDxFULBRIGHT 2014

TEDxFulbright 2014 will take place in Washington, DC, on April 5, 2014! This year’s theme will be “Dare to Think,” based on Senator Fulbright’s charged quote, “We must dare to think unthinkable thoughts.” Our theme sets the stage for a day of creative brainstorms on social innovation, provocative questions to rattle the establishment, and talks that will electrify and inspire a diverse community of participants. The day will be a showcase for inspiring stories and remarkable ideas of Fulbright scholars, grantees and alumni through 10-18 minute talks. Stay tuned at www.fulbright.org or www.tedxfulbright.org (new website launching end of November) and follow us on Facebook to get the latest updates and info on speakers, tickets, logistics, and more!
Opening reception brings worldwide Fulbright community together

BY DEBORAH J. ADDIS
THE ANNUAL OPENING RECEPTION – a signature event for the Massachusetts Chapter – was held this year in September, drawing approximately 240 Fulbright Alumni and visiting Fulbrighters representing 70 different countries.

“The room was very charged,” said Agnes Serenyi, a Fulbright alumna and member of the Massachusetts Chapter. “There are so few events like this where so many people from different countries come together and get a chance to learn about other cultures and customs and to share educational experiences. This is a wonderful opportunity to welcome new Fulbrighters and launch the year.”

This year’s opening reception was hosted by the Massachusetts Chapter of the Fulbright Association in collaboration with the International Center of Worcester (ICW) and WorldBoston, the two organizations who are the joint recipients of the Anchor City Grant this year, and Northeastern University. The Massachusetts Chapter, ICW, and WorldBoston cooperate throughout the academic year to provide enrichment activities for Fulbrighters. Each year Northeastern University, a leader in the Massachusetts Fulbright community, provides space, shares some of the expenses, and helps to organize the event.

Offering opening comments, Massachusetts Chapter President Bill Pjura (Germany 1975) welcomed everyone, saying, “Being a Fulbrighter will undoubtedly be one of the most formative and memorable experiences of your life. We hope to enrich that experience by providing opportunities for cross-cultural exchange.” In particular, he mentioned the upcoming Thanksgiving Exchange program, in which Fulbright alumni invite visiting Fulbrighters into their homes to share the Thanksgiving Day experience. Seventy students signed up to attend dinners hosted by Fulbright alumni.

Additionally, Dr. Joseph Aoun, President of Northeastern University, greeted the Fulbright alumni and visiting students and scholars, welcoming them to the United States while at the same time encouraging the visiting students, in particular, to think critically and to reflect on their Fulbright experience and, ultimately, to be creators and innovators when they return home.

Bill Clifford, the President and CEO of WorldBoston, greeted the visiting scholars, as did Deborah Dvorko, the ICW Board President, encouraging them to experience American culture while they are here and to participate in the forthcoming events organized on their behalf by the Anchor City Grant Committee.

Qazi Fazli Aseem, a Fulbright scholar from Pakistan who is in his second year studying at Massachusetts College of Art and Design, picked up on the opening comments, reflecting on his own Fulbright experience. “Being a Fulbrighter is a transformative experience, being respected by everyone I meet, welcomed like a diplomat and allowed to learn from the American people, by immersing in their culture and learning about how people do things from all over the world,” he said.

Zsolt Kortvelyesi, a Fulbright scholar from Hungary who is pursuing a one-year graduate (LL.M.) degree at Harvard Law School, said he really enjoyed the reception, which he attended with his wife, Eszter, and two-year-old son, Palkó. “To start a conversation was more than easy,” he said. “I had the feeling that people were very happy to be there. Spending Thanksgiving with a local family is a great idea and many of my friends enrolled. We did, too!”

Zsolt also said, “The event was not simply a networking opportunity, although I got to talk to a number of people with similar interests, and exchanged contacts. As I came with my wife and son, who are here with me in Cambridge, we were delighted to see so many other families at the event, and this weekend, we are going to visit the zoo with a family that we first met at the opening reception.”

The Massachusetts Chapter is currently planning its calendar of events, many in collaboration with the Anchor City Grant Committee. Bill Pjura encouraged Chapter members to keep an eye on the Fulbright Association website calendar and on Facebook for event announcements.
IN SEPTEMBER, BRUCE ARENA, former US Men’s World Cup Coach, and current coach of the Los Angeles Galaxy in Major League Soccer (MLS), joined members of the Fulbright Association’s National Capital Area Chapter (NCAC) as a guest speaker for their Music, Culture and Lecture Series. Mr. Arena came to discuss the United States’ role in the international world of soccer, as well as the future of MLS in America and the role it has played in the recent success of the US men’s national soccer team. A member of the National Soccer Hall of Fame and considered to be one of the best coaches in North American soccer history, Mr. Arena discussed the challenges associated with coaching and management, and emphasized the importance of leadership development and embracing diversity not just in the world of professional sports, but in academia and business as well. Following his speech he engaged the audience by answering individual questions about his insights and experiences both domestically and abroad. In addition to his time, Mr. Arena and the LA Galaxy donated tickets to the DC United vs. LA Galaxy match and a team signed jersey to be given away as a door prize. It was a great evening of professionalism, new perspectives, a lot of laughs and one new proud owner of a Beckham signed jersey.

FULBRIGHT ASSOCIATION

Featuring our board members

DR. GWENDOLYN WILLIS-DARPOH is a senior researcher in the Human and Social Development Program at the American Institutes for Research (AIR). In 2004-2005, she was an Institute for Educational Leadership (IEL) Education Policy Fellow.

With more than 35 years of experience in the field of education across various settings, Dr. Willis-Darpoh has worked with at-risk youth in Washington, D.C. and learning disabled students in the U.S. Virgin Islands. She received gubernatorial appointments to the statewide Maryland Advisory Council on Attention Deficit and Hyperactivity Disorders (2000-2003) and to the Maryland Advisory Council on Mental Hygiene (1999-2002), as well as being appointed by Maryland’s state superintendent to the Achievement Initiative for Maryland’s Minority Students steering committee (AIMMS) and to the K-16 Workgroup and State Leadership Team. Dr. Willis-Darpoh was a tenured Associate Professor at Indiana University of Pennsylvania where she traveled to Nigeria (1988) and Germany (1997) as a Fulbright Scholar. She continues to have a deep interest in international education, particularly in developing, sub-Saharan African countries with a deep commitment to furthering the efforts of the Fulbright Association. Gwendolyn earned a doctorate from the University of Pittsburgh, a M.Ed. from the American University, and a B.S. from Virginia State University.

MARY ELLEN H. SCHMIDER is the Vice President of the Fulbright Association’s Board of Directors. She previously served as Executive Director of the Fulbright Association in 2012 as transition leadership.

During her tenure, she developed a new staff, initiated the development of a more robust technology platform to serve members and Chapters, worked with the Board to develop the bi-annual J. William Fulbright Prize for International Understanding awarded to Doctors Without Borders at the Library of Congress in September, Fulbright Commissions, and State Alumni in the UK and Europe to plan the 35th Annual Conference of the Association. Dr. Schmider held two Senior Fulbright Lecturer Awards: to China in 1997, and Macedonia in 2005-6.

As Graduate Dean Emerita from the Minnesota State University Minnesota, she served as Chair of the Minnesota Humanities Commission. She holds the BA, magna cum laude, from St. Olaf College, the M.A. in English and American Literature from the University of Southern California, and the Ph. D. in American Studies from the University of Minnesota.

Rachael Aldridge, Treasurer of the DC chapter with Bruce Arena

NATIONAL CAPITAL AREA CHAPTER

Arena, guest speaker in DC chapter event
Two Fulbright Scholars launch “Testimonies” at the Embassy of Switzerland in DC

ON THE EVENING OF September 25, 2013, Fulbright Scholars Samantha Lakin and Laura Bernier debuted their new essay and photo book, based in their collaborative work from the “Testimonies: Stories of Children Rescued to Switzerland During WWII” documentary at the Embassy of Switzerland in Washington, DC.

The book launch showcased over two years of original research documenting the rescue of Jewish children to Switzerland during World War II. Lakin, Holocaust historian and Fulbright scholar to Switzerland in 2011-12, conducted over 70 interviews with Holocaust survivors throughout Europe, Israel, and the United States. Bernier, awarded the Fulbright Grant for photography in 2008-9, complemented this extensive study with photographs of the specific places and people central to Lakin’s research.

“Testimonies” is a combined essay and photo book that sheds light onto a little-known story of history, resistance, rescue, and positive deviance.

Following a poignant and thoughtful introduction from the Ambassador to Switzerland, H.E. Manuel Sager, Lakin presented her research and shared the history and specific stories of Jewish children who were transported to Switzerland as refugees, often clandestinely, to escape Nazi persecution. Guests in attendance were high-level policymakers, academics, and human rights advocates in the DC area. A number of Holocaust survivors who Lakin interviewed during her research were also in attendance.

Ambassador Sager commented on the presentation and book. “I am impressed with the depth, knowledge, and thoughtfulness of these two scholars. Their ability to answer difficult questions in a deep and meaningful way is inspiring.” Following the lecture, guests were welcomed to ask questions.

Lakin is currently continuing her studies in human security, mass atrocities, and genocide at The Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Tufts University. Bernier currently works in documentary photography and museums in New York. Previously, they have presented their work at the Museum of Tolerance New York, The United States Embassy in Bern, Yad Vashem in Jerusalem, the University of London, and other international conferences.

The Council on Foreign Relations’ (CFR) Fellowship Program offers unique opportunities for mid-career professionals focusing on international relations. The program affords fellows the opportunity to broaden their perspective of foreign affairs and to pursue proposed research, with a placement at either CFR or another institution in New York City or Washington, DC.

Fellows are recruited year-round. The duration of each fellowship is generally twelve months. The program awards a stipend, which varies with each fellowship. Fellows are considered independent contractors rather than employees of CFR.

International Relations FELLOWSHIPS

International Affairs Fellowship

Launched in 1967, the International Affairs Fellowship (IAF) is a distinguished program offered by CFR to assist mid-career scholars and professionals in advancing their analytic capabilities and broadening their foreign policy experience. The program aims to strengthen career development by helping outstanding individuals acquire and apply foreign policy skills beyond the scope of their professional and scholarly achievements. CFR awards approximately ten fellowships annually to highly accomplished individuals who have a capacity for independent work and who are eager to undertake serious foreign policy analysis. The IAF Program is only open to U.S. citizens and permanent residents between the ages of twenty-seven and thirty-five who are eligible to work in the United States.

International Affairs Fellowship in Nuclear Security, sponsored by the Stanton Foundation

The International Affairs Fellowship in Nuclear Security (IAF-NS), sponsored by the Stanton Foundation, offers university-based scholars valuable hands-on experience in the nuclear security policymaking field and places selected fellows in U.S. government positions or international organizations for a period of twelve months to work with practitioners. CFR awards approximately two fellowships annually. The IAF-NS is only open to faculty members with tenure or on tenure-track lines at accredited universities and who propose to spend a year working in government or at an international organization. Qualified candidates must be U.S. citizens or permanent residents who are eligible to work in the United States and be between the ages of twenty-nine and fifty.

International Affairs Fellowship in Japan, sponsored by Hitachi, Ltd.

Founded in 1997, the International Affairs Fellowship in Japan (IAF-J), sponsored by Hitachi, Ltd., seeks to strengthen mutual understanding and cooperation between the rising generations of leaders in the United States and Japan. The program provides a selected group of mid-career U.S. citizens the opportunity to expand their professional horizons by spending a period of research or other professional activity in Japan. The IAF-J is only open to U.S. citizens between the ages of twenty-seven and forty-five. The program is intended primarily for those without substantial prior experience in Japan, although the selection committee has made exceptions when it considered that the fellowship would allow an individual to add a significant new dimension to his or her career. Knowledge of the Japanese language is not a requirement.

International Affairs Fellowship in South Korea, sponsored by the Asan Institute for Policy Studies

Launched in 2010, the International Affairs Fellowship in South Korea (IAF-SK), sponsored by the Asan Institute for Policy Studies, seeks to strengthen mutual understanding and cooperation between the rising generations of leaders in the United States and South Korea by expanding cultural exchange and enhancing communication between both countries on global issues. CFR awards several fellowships annually to highly accomplished individuals who have a capacity for independent work and who are eager to undertake serious foreign policy analysis while affiliated with the Asan Institute for Policy Studies in South Korea. The IAF-SK is only open to U.S. citizens. Applicants do not have to be Korea specialists, and knowledge of the Korean language is not a requirement.

National Intelligence Fellowship

Established in 1999, the National Intelligence Fellowship provides an opportunity for an outstanding senior intelligence officer to participate in and contribute to CFR activities and events. Each year, candidates from the intelligence community are nominated by the Office of the Director of National Intelligence.

Edward R. Murrow Press Fellowship

Launched in 1949 with support from the Carnegie Corporation, the Edward R. Murrow Press Fellowship seeks to promote the quality of responsible and discerning journalism that exemplified the work of Edward R. Murrow. One CFR resident fellowship is awarded each year to a distinguished foreign correspondent or editor. The program enables the fellow to engage in sustained analysis and writing, expand his or her intellectual and professional horizons, and extensively participate in CFR’s active program of meetings and events.

Military Fellowship

Each year, the Chiefs of Staff of the Army and the Air Force, the Chief of Naval Operations, and the Commandants of the Coast Guard and the Marine Corps nominate an outstanding officer from their respective services as a candidate for a Military Fellowship. CFR usually awards four to five such fellowships annually. The program enables the selected officers to broaden their understanding of international relations by spending a year in residence at CFR’s headquarters in New York.

Stanton Nuclear Security Fellowship

Made possible by a generous grant from the Stanton Foundation, the fellowship offers younger scholars studying nuclear security issues the opportunity to spend a period of twelve months at CFR offices in New York or Washington, DC, conducting policy-relevant research. CFR awards up to three fellowships annually. Qualified candidates must be junior (non-tenured) faculty, post-doctoral fellows, or pre-doctoral candidates from any discipline who are working on a nuclear security related issue. The program is only open to U.S. citizens and permanent residents who are eligible to work in the United States. CFR does not sponsor for visas.

**Alumni recent accomplishments**

» **Pat Maloney** was the 2012 recipient of the Washington County Rotary Club’s Andrew G. Uram International Service Award for her help in a number of causes. Her humanitarian activities include teaching art without books in Ghana from 1993-95; coordinating the delivery of more than 1 million books to the Rotary Club of Ghana; and dispensing polio vaccine in India.

Maloney is a Fulbright scholar, teaching art without books in Ghana under her scholarship. Upon her return, the Rotary Club of Washington and Brother's Brother Foundation provided her more than 1 million books, which were delivered to the Rotary Club of Ghana for distribution to schools, missions and libraries. In 2005, Maloney represented the Washington Club on a three-week District 7330 trip to India to dispense polio vaccines. While there, she documented the plaster casting process of making prosthetics for polio victims, and upon her return, was instrumental in raising funds to improve the process of making prosthetics for children and adults in India. She also has made several humanitarian trips to hurricane-ravaged areas of Haiti.

» **Ana Gil-García** is the 2013 recipient of the prestigious Maria Mangual Leadership Award given by “Mujeres Latinas en Acción,” a non-for-profit organization born in 1970, considered the longest-standing Latina organization in the United States, serving to empower Latinas through services which reflect their values and culture.

**ALUMNUS OF THE MONTH Richard T. Arndt**

RICHARD T. ARNDT, aka Dick, grew up in New York’s Jersey suburbs. After working his way through Princeton, he tried a Jersey newspaper, then joined 270 other students in the first year of the French Fulbright program in Dijon, he explored the impact of American writers on France (’49-’50).

Returning to teaching at Columbia University, he did his PhD in French 18th-century literature (’59).

In 1961, he left Columbia to join USIA and went to Beirut as a cultural officer. There, with the help of friends at the American University of Beirut, he discovered cultural and educational diplomacy and managed a small “Fulbright” program, without a Commission. His commitment to cultural diplomacy continues today. After Beirut, came Sri Lanka (’63-’66) and Tehran (’66-’71). A mid-career year at Princeton’s Wilson School (’71-’72) focused on education in socio-political development. At State (’72-’74), he worked on Latin America, foreign students, youth programs, and US speakers in the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (’72-’74), now ECA. He was cultural attaché in Rome (’74-’78) and Paris (’78-’80). After the 1980 absorption of ECA into USIA, he worked in cultural policy and Middle East affairs (’80-’85). He left USIA in 1985 to teach at the University of Virginia (’86-’91) and at the George Washington University, until 2007. He lectures at American and foreign universities and has served as consultant to foreign ministries abroad.

Past-President of the Fulbright Association, he has chaired—among others—the National Peace Foundation, the Advisory Council and Americans for UNESCO, the US Committee to Save Ancient Tyre and headed the US group recruiting high-level lecturers for the Fulbright Legacy Lectures in the UK (Oxford, London, Edinburgh) and helping found an Oxford professorship bearing Fulbright’ name.

For FA, he was principal editor of The Fulbright Difference (’93). In 2005, his book The First Resort of Kings: American Cultural Diplomacy in the Twentieth Century became the reference of record on the subject.

To honor his late wife Lois Roth, an iconic US cultural diplomat, he founded and still chairs the Lois Roth Endowment, from gifts and bequests of colleagues and friends.

The Endowment manages two ongoing projects in international exchange and research, with two dozen partners, in 15 countries. It also works at a deeper structure of cultural diplomacy, awarding three annual prizes for excellence to the people who manage cultural diplomacy (foreign service, domestic support and foreign national employees), rewarding fine literary translation through MLA’s Roth prize, the American Institute of Iranian Studies award, the Dyankov Prize in Bulgaria, and the Prix Coindreau in France.

Dick has four children and seven grandchildren who live in Luxembourg, State College PA, Denver and Seattle.