The Fulbright Association invites all its members and anyone interested in the Fulbright program to submit a proposal for its 36th Annual Conference to be held October 3-6, 2013 in Washington, DC.

The deadline to submit proposals is June 5th, 2013. This year, more than ever, we are seeking breakout sessions that will bring the “wow” factor, are provocative, and keep attendees engaged in ongoing dialogues.

Proposals should fit with the conference’s theme: “Fulbright in Action” and address how Fulbrighters, through their work and research, are taking action to address the issues of the day. For the 2013 Annual Conference, breakout sessions will be divided into five tracks of interest.

There will be approximately 2 – 4 sessions per track spread out over two days. Breakout session proposals should be submitted in one of the following five tracks:

- Science & Technology
- Arts & Humanities
- Human Rights & Social Justice
- Business & Entrepreneurship
- Global Public Health

Don’t forget to take advantage of the July 15th early bird registration deadline. We look forward to seeing you in Washington DC in October.

Second Leadership Conference took place in Chicago

By Shaz Akram

The Chicago Leadership Conference held at Columbia College in collaboration with the Chicago Chapter on April 20-21, was a huge success.

Fifty chapter leaders from 46 chapters attended the two day conference that covered topics under programs, partnerships and profiles. The coming together of chapter leadership not only gave an opportunity for people to present their ideas, but also created a unique opportunity to network and share common Fulbright experiences.

We encourage our members to attend our annual conference in October. Our alumni conference provides opportunities to invest in collective pride, friendship and sharing of one’s work.

Have something newsworthy? email shaz.akram@fulbright.org
BY ROTH ENDOWMENT

THE THIRD ANNUAL FUL-BRIGHT Legacy Lectures were delivered in May by Dr. Harold Varmus, speaking on “International Relations in Science and Medicine.” Dr. Varmus, Director of the National Cancer Institute, formerly headed the National Institutes of Health, then Memorial Sloan-Kettering in New York City. In 1989, he shared the Nobel Prize with Michael Bishop for groundbreaking research on genetic damage as a cause for cancer. His talks explored the international side of science through three case studies—the cancer institute in Uganda, the Malaria institute in malaria, and the US Presidents’ AIDS Initiative (PEPFAR)—in keeping with the spirit of his remarkable book The Art and Politics of Science (Norton 2010).

The 2013 Lectures began on May 3 at Senator Fulbright’s beloved Oxford, where he spent four years (1924-28) at Pembroke College. The second talk, on PEPFAR, was delivered on May 7 at Kings College London and the third at the University of Edinburgh on May 9. Now in their third year, the Legacy Lectures began in 2011 with political scientistAnne-Marie Slaughter (2011) and senior diplomat Thomas R. Pickering (2012). Ambassador Pickering and Dr. Varmus offered follow-up seminars in each site, in Varmus’ case at the medical colleges of the three universities, aimed at medical students and young medical professionals.

The Fulbright Archives in Fayetteville hold deep insights into the Senator’s love for and debt to Pembroke, both in his unpublished letters to his family and particularly in the thirty-five-year correspondence with his tutor Ronald B. McCal-lum, later Pembroke’s Master. Fulbright is certainly the most prominent American product of Pembroke College, which counts among its earlier graduates British lexicographer and literary light Dr. Samuel Johnson and crystallographer James Smithson, whose donation in the early decades of the 19th century provided the spark for the creation of the Smithsonian Institution in Washington DC.

The Fulbright Legacy Lectures were founded by a steer-
“WELCOME TO THE MOST AMERICAN of the American cities,” said Chicago mayor Rahm Emanuel at the MOOCs panel discussion event that took place at the University of Chicago Hyde Park campus on Monday May 7, 2013.

The J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board (FFSB) oversees all the Fulbright programs in the world, and meets four times a year. For the first time, the board met in Chicago, May 6-8. In order to reach out to the Fulbright community, the Department of State worked closely with the Chicago Chapter of the Fulbright Association to organize a series of activities while the Fulbright Board was in town. Several events took place at the Quadrangle Club of the University of Chicago. Fulbright Association Executive Director Stephen Reilly was also invited to present an overview and new initiatives being undertaken by the Fulbright Association.

The first event was an information fair that showcased exchange and career opportunities with the Department of State. Representatives from programs like the Fulbright-Hays Scholarship, Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship, Critical Language Scholarship, Institute of International Education and U.S. State Department Diplomat in Residence, among others, were present at the fair.

The second event was a panel discussion, “Fulbright 2.0—E-Learning, MOOCs, OERs, and the Future: What does New Technology Mean for Global Education,” right after the fair.

“We are here to see how technology is changing world education,” Tom Healy, Chair of the Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board said when addressing a packed room of participants. The objective of the panel was to explore and discuss the evolving role of e-learning technologies around the world and the potential applications within the Fulbright Program.

Among the panelists there were Clay Pell from the U.S. Department of Education, Henry Bienen, President Emeritus of Northwestern University, Katie Day Good, Fulbright alumna-MTVU to Mexico, and Shai Reshief, President of the University of the People. The panel was moderated by Laura S. Trombley, President of Pitzer College and member of the Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board.

Right after the panel discussion, a reception celebrating the “extraordinary history of the Fulbright Program in Chicago” was held. The special guest at the reception was Hanna Holborn Gray, President Emeritus of the University of Chicago and a 1950-51 Fulbright Scholar to the UK.

On Tuesday May 7, the Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board visited Northeastern Illinois University, invited by its President Sharon K. Hahs, and Ana Gil-García, board member of the Chicago chapter of the Fulbright Association and professor at the same university.

During the FFSB board visit to Chicago, Stephen Reilly, Executive Director of the Fulbright Association in D.C. had the opportunity to meet with all the board members and discuss his vision on how to move the national Fulbright Association forward by creating new programming and increasing membership.
Fulbright Scholars represent FIU at St. Augustine

BY CONSUELO NARANJO

Florida International University Fulbright students and alumni participated on a three day meeting, from April 5 to April 7, in St. Augustine, Fla. for the commemoration of Juan Ponce de León—a Spanish explorer who arrived to one of the oldest cities in the United States 500 years ago.

The program was planned by the Fulbright Association with its three chapters in North, Central and South Florida. This society was established by Fulbright Scholars Program alumni, enabling supporters of international education to learn more about St. Augustine’s history by attending conferences, touring the city and interacting with other Fulbrighters from Florida universities.

Jesús Méndez, vice president of the South Florida Chapter, describes Fulbright not just as an academic program where students can acquire knowledge, but also as a program that promotes mutual understanding between cultures through education and communication—the main objectives of Fulbright.

“Knowledge without understanding creates tragedies. Fulbright reunions are amazing and necessary opportunities where students can appreciate and share new cultures, languages and different points of views,” Méndez said.

Flagler College in St. Augustine was a co-sponsor of the weekend’s events.

William T. Abare, Jr., president of Flagler College, Thomas Graham, professor of history at Flagler College and Jesús Méndez addressed the 500th anniversary of St. Augustine history. Betty Castor, member of the J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board and former Florida commissioner of education, and Shaz Akram, Director of Chapter Relations of the Fulbright Association in Washington, D.C, welcomed Fulbrighters by presenting the organization’s goals, recognitions and personal experiences.

Nicolás Terradas (Argentina), FIU Fulbright International Relations graduate, shared the importance of the Fulbright program and how this opportunity has impacted his personal life and professional career.

“Fulbright has changed my life completely. This program not just only gave me the opportunity to study in a country where the highest academic standards resided, but also allowed me to obtain cultural understanding. I have met people from all around the world; without this grant, I would never have these experiences.”

Five FIU Fulbright students, Ziyad Ben Taleb, public health major (Libya); Nicolás Terradas, international relations major (Argentina); Juan Sebastián Betancourt, business major (Colombia); Anas Salah Eddin, electrical engineering major (Syria); and Valerie Pelletier, public health major (Haiti), also attended the St. Augustine event.

Students, alumni and participants visited historical venues such as the Hotel Ponce de León building of Flagler College, the Castillo de San Marcos, St. George Street, Markland House and the Colonial Quarter while enjoying the town’s cuisine and receptions.

The Fulbright U.S. Student Program awards over one thousand grants every year, available in over 155 countries worldwide. FIU students have been the proud recipients of these prestigious awards.

According to the Fulbright association in 2012-2013, Florida welcomed 60 foreign Fulbright students from 25 different countries. Also, during 2012-2013, a total of 61 students attending Florida universities received Fulbright Scholarship grants to study and organize academic research abroad.

Florida International University has approximately 50,000 students, most with an international background, and has been a successful academic entity for the Fulbright Scholarship Program.

“FIU is growing extremely fast. It has well-known and globally recognized academic programs that attract students from the five continents,” Méndez said.
Shamita Johnson was instrumental in establishing an exchange with the Collège de Haut Penoy in France.

GEORGIA FULBRIGHTER IN ACTION

Cultural exchange between Atlanta public school and French college

BY SHAMITA JOHNSON
ON AUGUST 26, 2012, Collège de Haut Penoy, of Nancy-Metz, France and Luther Judson Price Middle School, of Atlanta Public Schools, officially began a partnership to enhance students’ academic and personal lives from both sides of the Atlantic. However, this would not have been possible without the dedicated service and extraordinary work done by Madame Clémentine Bernon, former Deputy Attachée Culturelle of the French Consulate in Atlanta as well as other diplomatic representatives at the French Embassy in Washington D.C.

Since the partnership, both language instructors, of the respective schools, Madame Déborah Keeton and Madame Shamita Johnson, have developed a very strong business relationship. This relationship has resulted in the students from both schools to become more motivated to learn the English and French languages as well as become active global citizens of the twenty-first century.

On February 15, 2013, Madame Keeton, English instructor of Collège de Haut Penoy, and International Relationship Liaison for the Ministry of Education in France, visited Luther Judson Price Middle School in Georgia. The purpose of the day visit was three-fold. First, Madame Keeton met the French students and their parents by giving special presentations throughout the day about her region of France, Lorraine, Nancy-Metz, as well as her school, Collège de Haut Penoy.

The second purpose was to visit the whole school program of Luther Judson Price Middle School by meeting faculty and staff. The final purpose of the visit was to identify ten students along with five parents to travel to Nancy-Metz, France in June 2013 with Madame Shamita Johnson, their French teacher.

The objective of traveling to France is to further enhance students’ knowledge and skills to become active global citizens. In addition, it will allow Luther Judson Price Middle School students’ to meet their French classmates from Collège de Haut Penoy and experience going to school in another country.

Rap is just one of the many tools Madame Shamita Johnson uses to teach her students French at Price Middle School. The Fulbright Scholar and Exchange teacher is also harnessing technology in the classroom. “Technology is the 21st century. How can you teach without technology?” Johnson said. In addition to the iPads the students use, they communicate via Skype with their sister school in France. The students say it motivates them to learn the language.

“And then with the Skype call, instead of just writing to them or sending letters to them we can talk face to face too,” said Dyamond Jefferson, an 8th grader.

Dyamond and Demetrius are among ten Price students chosen to travel to France this summer to visit and live with the students they’ve become friends with on the internet.

Madame Déborah Keeton, a middle school teacher at Haur Penoy Middle School in France, says the trip has inspired her students to really learn English.

“Now they know why they have to learn English. It’s not in a book anymore. They have people in front of them,” said Keeton.

But for Madame Johnson, it’s a chance to give her students what a middle school teacher gave her as a child growing up in Philadelphia’s inner city—a trip to France.

“I want to take them to see the world because they need to. And when they do, they will change, and they will give back to the community just as I am,” Johnson said.

The Price students need more than $34,000 to pay for 16 round trip airline tickets to France for themselves and their parents. Click here if you’d like to help.

“We’re young, so we know much about technology and it really appeals to our senses because we can do more on the technology”

—DEMETRIUS DOZIER, 6TH GRADE STUDENT
A child care center for the University of Limpopo in South Africa

BY DARLENE DEMARIE
MY FULBRIGHT TO SOUTH AFRICA was the beginning of a life journey. My goal is to continue this mission, which began as part of my Fulbright in 2007. I co-created a child care center for the University of Limpopo, a historically Black university in the northern rural part of South Africa.

It wasn’t an easy task to start a child care center, especially during the first year. We had to find partners to provide funding for renovating a house on campus and for obtaining the necessary equipment and supplies. We started with only a house. Funding we obtained from the South African Department of Education paid for all the renovations to that house. The ANC party (the dominant political party in South Africa, and the party of Nelson Mandela and all presidents since Apartheid ended) paid for us to provide child care for their convention. This money and a large donation from an international copy company funded all of our equipment. Donations from our friends, relatives, professional acquaintances, musicians, authors, schools and child care centers in the U. S., and of course, from Prof. Cherian of the University of Limpopo, and from me, provided all of the supplies.

Students at Clarion University of Pennsylvania and the University of South Florida did service learning projects that offered an assortment of board games and tapes of books that had been donated to the center. A food service provider on campus subsidized half the cost of children’s meals. Every day, children received nutritious breakfasts, lunches, and afternoon snacks; and many children took home half of the snack for their brothers and sisters.

Thanks to everyone’s generosity, we have been able to provide quality early childhood experiences for 52 children from ages 2- to 6-years-old. Without that support, and without the University of Limpopo’s subsequent subsidy for its own staff, it never would have been possible for families to afford this type of care for their children.

I will never forget the grand opening celebration, one month before my Fulbright ended. The Vice Chancellor and children cut the ribbon together. After I told about my worries leaving South Africa when the child care center had only opened recently, the American Embassy extended my Fulbright into the next year. This gave me nine more months to work with the teachers and to begin the kindergarten program.

More renovations to the house were made possible with funding from a golf tournament that was sponsored by the recently hired construction company in conjunction with the University.

I also will never forget the first kindergarten graduation in 2010. I returned for one month at my own expense, because I did not want to miss that milestone celebration. I was able to witness first-hand the effects of proper nutrition, a nurturing relationship, and a stimulating environment on young children’s development and learning. These differences were evident when I compared photos I had taken 1½ years ago with the current photos I was taking. First, I noticed there were dramatic changes in the children’s skin coloring. Withdrawn, skinny children now were smiling and singing joyfully. A second change was every child, regardless of age, was trying to read, and wanted to tell me about their favorite books. A third change was there was far more activity on the playground than there had been years ago. The children loved to play soccer and to run around the large play area. It was then I realized my Fulbright had created new possibilities for these young children and their families.

Parents thanked me for making a difference in their children’s lives. Some admitted not trusting me while I was there. By returning to South Africa at my own expense, I had convinced them the project came from my heart. Although children and families spoke many different languages at home, learning English at the child care center seemed to unite them. Tribes that traditionally worked against one another were coming together on behalf of their children.

Finally, one parent told me about her child and another child who had moved to first grade with scholarships to a traditionally “White” private school. Both were reported to be at the top of their classes in reading and math. This was the dream of every “Black” parent in that region.

The child care center’s supplies now are dwindling. The computer, printer, and DVD player all were stolen, and there is no money to replace them. We depend on the generosity of people who can afford the “American Dream” to help those who do not even know what that means. The South Africans I met were very hard-working people. Many simply did not have wages that covered more than a hut (many without electricity) and bread (the diet of many). Some families walked many miles to and from the child care center, because they did not have transportation.

The next step will be to build a teacher professional development training center to provide early childhood professional development for the region’s teachers. By offering the training to an international audience, the center can generate its own income source. We hope that the possibilities stimulate some good will among our Fulbright friends.
BY ALVIN M. SAPERSTEIN & HARRIET B. SAPERSTEIN
THE MICHIGAN CHAPTER OF THE FULBRIGHT ASSOCIATION held one of its most successful events this year as part of its commitment to ensure Fulbrighters from different educational institutions meet each other, explore other communities, and learn about Detroit and its rich international and ethnic history.

The chapter organized “Ethnic History” experiences of African/Jewish/Arab and Latino Americans to understand the history, institutions and lives of these groups, “The Detroit African American History Tour.” Seventy Fulbright students, scholars and alumni from eight Michigan institutions and more than 30 different countries mingled and experienced an aspect of U.S. and World History. The African American experience, with its history of enslavement and bravery of those who fought this evil, is a difficult story to tell or even understand and active participation in two tours created an important educational experience for Fulbright students, scholars, alumni and guests.

Fulbrighters drove from Saginaw, Kalamazoo, Jackson, Ann Arbor, E. Lansing, and Holland, Michigan to participate in the program, “Flight for Freedom,” an interactive presentation of the experiences of enslaved African Americans escaping from the South to Detroit, and then to Canada where they found freedom. In addition to the tour, enhanced by a cast of costumed volunteers from First Congregational Church as part of their “Underground Railroad Living Museum”, the participants also heard a background introduction that put the Underground Railroad experience in historic context, and watched a video. The tour took place in a beautiful historic Church, which was led in the 19th Century by an Abolitionist Pastor and supportive congregants. It took place in a block-long underground setting simulating a real life Southern experience for attendees, through Kentucky and Ohio, chased by Bounty Hunters, saved by Quaker Abolitionists. A southern style lunch, a local historian who lived in a house in Rome, Michigan that had been one of the “Safe-Houses” on the Underground Railroad (30 miles north of Detroit) facilitated a discussion and answered some of questions from the group.

After lunch, the group walked to the Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History, broken into two groups and led by local volunteer docents, to view the featured exhibition “And Still We Rise.” This exhibit started with history of slavery in Africa, portraying the horrific experience of enslavement in terms of exhibits such as the hold of a slave-ship with models of some of those who would have experienced the trip to the United States, and includes many other dioramas and informative exhibits about different aspects of the slave trade, the fights for freedom in the 19th century, and the Civil Rights struggles of the 20th Century, with special emphasis on Detroit, its historical context and the current situation today.

As one Fulbright FLTA visitor from Central Michigan University noted:

“First, I am very impressed with the performance of the group at the church. As we walked and they talked through the journey, I got carried away and felt as if I was there as a slave. It was a really well done. Another thing I was impressed with was the organization of the whole event. I think it was packed very well. We had the railroad journey at the church followed by QA session led by three amazing scholars in the field and then we marched together to the museum. It actually hosts a huge collection and I learned a lot by listening, observing and asking questions.”

An alumnus (Vienna, 1993) who drove three hours with his two daughters wrote: “Please continue these great outreach programs.”

These tours have been supported by the OME grants, and also required the cooperation and co-sponsorship of several of the participating universities who supplied vans and even paid drivers to enable the students to attend this event. Chapter members contribute time, especially to arrange transportation from Universities 70-120 miles away.
FULBRIGHT ASSOCIATION

Featuring our board members

Pauline Eveillard is Senior Program Associate at World Monuments Fund, an international non-profit organization dedicated to historic preservation, where she manages preservation projects, the international travel program, and the young members group. After earning her BA in Art History at Tufts University, she spent a year in Tunisia in 2005-2006 as a Fulbright fellow, where she studied ancient Roman mosaics and visual culture. In 2008 she applied the research completed during her Fulbright Fellowship to her Master’s thesis at the University of Chicago.

Ms. Eveillard is dedicated to raising awareness of the Fulbright program and Tunisia through working at World Monuments Fund, volunteering for One To World and New York Needs You, and starting an online retail business selling Tunisian products. Further, Ms. Eveillard has volunteered on a panel to discuss her Fulbright experience with first-generation college students. Ms. Eveillard plans to enhance participation of Fulbright alumni in the New York City area.

Rob Helm is a partner in the financial services practice group at Dechert LLP in Washington, DC. He was a Fulbright-Hays Direct Exchange Fellow to Italy in 1982-83.

He notes, “I was one in a series of Stanford law alumni who had the privilege of working with Professor Mauro Cappelletti under the aegis of the Fulbright program over many years. My time in Italy was one of the more interesting and culturally enriching experiences of my life”. Rob is married to Mimie and has two daughters, Meghan and Mary Kate, both students at the University of Virginia.

Alumni recent accomplishments


» Ode Amaze’s premier of Roger C. Vogel’s “Things Fall Apart” based on Chinua Achebe’s (1930-2013) novel. This work, for voice and narration, was commissioned and performed recently at the Univ. of Georgia in Athens has just been published in a CD.

» Margaret Woodward Ostrom (France 55, 56) was recognized by the Supervisors of Kennett Township, Chester County, PA for her efforts to preserve an 1847 map of Chester County, which her family donated to the Township. A digitalized version of the map now hangs in the reception area of the Township building. Margaret has been a member of the Kennett Township Historical Commission for 25 years and is a life member of the Fulbright Association.

» Priscilla J. (“Sally”) Mattison, Esq., LEED® Green Associate, of counsel to Bernard M. Resnick, Esq., P.C., announces the debut of her new photography website. Sally’s original fine art and editorial photographs can be viewed, licensed and purchased at www.sallymattison.com. Sally studied at the Technical University of Berlin in then-West Berlin on a Fulbright in 1982.

» In 1989 (when the Berlin wall came down) Diane Radycki was awarded a Fulbright to Germany in order to research the artist Paula Modersohn-Becker (1876-1907), Radycki’s monograph on Modersohn-Becker—the first modern woman artist—is being published by Yale University Press this month.

» Richard Marranca’s Dragon Sutra has now been published by Oak Tree Press in print. Richard is president of the New Jersey Chapter of the Fulbright Association.

Dragon Sutra is an action/adventure/political thriller that takes place in Southeast Asia, beginning in Cambodia and ending in Burma in the summer of 2007.

» 333 Saints: A Life of Scholarship in Timbuktu is a book for all those interested in Timbuktu, Mali, Islam, African scholarship, and photography! This photography book in English and French by Fulbright Scholar Alexandra Huddleston shows a world that is largely unknown in the West: a deeply rooted, ancient Islamic tradition of tolerance, erudition, and faith. Check it out here.

“My book tells a story of discovery; unfolding page by page, a rich and beautiful African intellectual culture that remains largely unknown in the West. This is a book about men and women who love books—scholars of all ages who seek knowledge and wisdom through learning. It is about a city that has built its identity around a culture of scholarship,” Huddleston said.

333 Saints: A Life of Scholarship in Timbuktu

333 Saints: A Life of Scholarship in Timbuktu

333 Saints: A Life of Scholarship in Timbuktu

333 Saints: A Life of Scholarship in Timbuktu
Immigration Reform: Pros & Cons for visiting Fulbrighters

BY CRIS RAMÓN

IN APRIL 2013, a bipartisan group of eight senators unveiled the Border Security, Economic Opportunity, and Immigration Modernization Act of 2013, the group’s proposal for comprehensive immigration reform. In addition to reforming measures related to immigration enforcement and future migrant flows, the bill also includes provisions that impact foreign students.

While the bill contains provisions that will have a positive impact on foreign students—including visiting Fulbrighters—the amendment process has introduced measures that could hurt their efforts to study in the U.S.

The bill introduced several visa provisions that facilitate the integration of foreign students. The bill turns the student F visa, which permits individuals to study in the United States, into a dual intent visa where individuals can apply for a green card after completing their studies.

The bill also creates a new points-based “merit-based” visa category that would grant visas to individuals whose academic, professional, and personal qualifications earn them points towards obtaining this legal status. This measure, which would allot 120,000 to 250,000 visas to this category, would allow foreign students to obtain a visa without securing employment in the United States.

The bill provides foreign students with more opportunities to gain employment in the United States, especially for individuals who studied in science, technology, engineering, and medical (STEM) fields. First, the bill increases the number of H-1B temporary work visas from 110,000 to 180,000 visas. The bill also increases the allotment of visas within the employment category for individuals with a PhD, master’s, bachelor’s, or two-years work experience in STEM-based fields.

In the case of foreign students who receive a job offer within five years of graduating from a Master’s or PhD program in these fields, these individuals can apply for a green card without contributing to the numerical caps in this category.

In addition to these provisions, the Senate Judiciary Committee’s markup of the bill during the week of May 14 sought to introduce additional measures that would impact foreign students. A majority of these amendments revolve around tracking foreign students in the United States, which continues to serve as a national security concern in immigration enforcement.

The Committee rejected an amendment that linked the effectiveness of dual intent visas for nonimmigrants seeking higher degrees to the implementation of the second generation of the Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVIS), a Department of Homeland Security (DHS) system that requires schools to register and track foreign students in the United States.

The Committee also opposed an amendment that eliminated the Secretary of State’s authority to waive personal interviews for low risk visa applicants such as students. Finally, the Committee passed an amendment that exempts higher education institutions from paying a proposed fee of $500 for each J-1 visa issued for most exchange students, including visiting Fulbrighters.

However, the Committee also passed various stringent measures, including an amendment that requires background checks for designated school officials responsible for monitoring foreign students every three years. However, the measure passed with a 2nd degree amendment which eliminated the suspension of the school’s certification if one of its designated school officials is indicted for fraud. The Committee also passed an amendment that places a moratorium on the issuance of student F and M visas until Customs and Border Patrol gains real-time access to SEVIS.

As a whole, the bill’s provisions—especially turning the F visa into a dual-intent visa—represent a step forward for giving foreign students the opportunity to secure work and integrate into the United States after completing their studies. However, the amendments could harm the experience of foreign students by placing significant administrative burdens on educational institutions and the issuance of student visas that allow foreign students to study in the U.S.

Although legislators must address national security concerns related to immigration in the bill, these efforts should seek to meet these goals without compromising the effort of foreign students to study in the United States. The Fulbright community can support international students by contacting their lawmakers to oppose these measures as the bill continues through the amendment and committee processes.

What’s new?

- More opportunities to gain employment in the U.S. for individuals who studied in science, technology, engineering, and medical (STEM) fields.
- The number of H-1B temporary work visas will increase from 110,000 to 180,000.
- More visas within the employment category for individuals with a PhD, master’s, bachelor’s, or two-years work experience in STEM-based fields.

Amendments passed

- Exemption of higher education institutions from paying a proposed fee of $500 for each J-1 visa issued for most exchange students, including visiting Fulbrighters.
- Requirement of background checks for designated school officials responsible for monitoring foreign students every three years.

Amendments rejected

- Department of Homeland Security (DHS) system that requires schools to register and track foreign students in the U.S.
- Elimination of the Secretary of State’s authority to waive personal interviews for low risk visa applicants such as students.
In March, 2013 one of our Fulbright PhD alumni passed away much too soon, from a rare illness. Sarah was in the PhD Literature program at University of South Florida (USF), in Tampa from 2004 to 2010. She made many friends during her time there, and was actively involved in the Mid-Florida chapter activities and events. She left a lasting impact on our Fulbright alums as well as on those she met. USF and the Mid-Florida chapter members are deeply saddened by the loss of this extraordinary scholar, teacher, journalist, and friend.

Sarah worked as a journalist for the Daily Monitor which she joined in 1997. She worked as sub editor until 2004 when she left the company to work with the Weekly Observer in March 2004. She was shortly after granted a Fulbright scholarship and left Uganda to pursue a doctoral degree, at USF. After six years, returning in 2010 she rejoined the Observer and resumed teaching at Makerere University, Uganda.

Recollections from a friend. I last saw Sarah in Switzerland in November of 2011. Awarded a grant, she was researching at the University of Zurich, and I jumped on the chance to see a country I’ve never been to and, more importantly, to reunite with a dear friend I’d been missing. At that time, Sarah was the picture of health: she was hard at work on turning her dissertation into a book, and we had a great time touring Switzerland’s castles, riding the ferry down the Zugersee, and buying ridiculously expensive leather boots that we weren’t sure would even fit in our suitcases.

On a dreary Sunday afternoon (the day almost everything shuts down in Switzerland), we found a small café where we drank tea and discussed plans for a co-authored article, something that I’m still working on to this day.

When I moved to USF in the fall of 2005 to embark on a PhD, I’d never imagined that my officemate would be a woman from Uganda, a Fulbright scholar who left her country with intentions to write about American culture only to wind up writing about Uganda and other African countries. Although I first thought we were worlds apart, I was amazed to discover how similar we were—having a love for feminist theory and Sex and the City, and, as I learned later in our friendship, I shared not just a first name with her mother, but also a birthday.

I defended my dissertation exactly one year after Sarah’s defense and one of the things that gave me confidence that day was a voicemail from a phone number with too many digits to be from the US. Sarah’s kind voice was the first to congratulate me. Sarah was so many things to me: an officemate, colleague and co-author, support during the dark days of the dissertation, and one of my very best friends. She had an award-winning smile that lit up the room. Instead of trying to understand why she left this world at such a young age, I take comfort in knowing that she lived a full life. I’m a better person for having known such an amazing woman. —Christine Grogan PhD Literature, USF 2011

The Fulbright Association loses another family member, Dr. E.B. Smith, a retired University of Maryland history professor, who died of congestive heart failure at the Hospice of the Chesapeake in Harwood on April 30, the day before his 93rd birthday. He lived at Tracys Landing on the western shore of the Chesapeake Bay.

Elbert Benjamin Smith was born in Benham, Ky. He graduated in 1940 from Maryville College in Tennessee, and he served as a Navy communications and deck officer during World War II. He received a master’s degree in 1947 and a doctoral degree in 1949, both in history from the University of Chicago.

Dr. Smith joined the faculty at Maryland in 1968 and became a professor emeritus in 1990. He specialized in the Civil War and had written about the pre-Civil War presidencies of Zachary Taylor, Millard Fillmore and William Buchanan and about the Civil War-era politician Francis Preston Blair, a founder of Silver Spring.

Dr. Smith was a Fulbright professor at universities in Japan and Russia and was an exchange professor at the University of Beijing. Before joining the Maryland faculty, Dr. Smith also taught at Youngstown University, Iowa State University and the University of Wisconsin.

He ran unsuccessfully for the U.S. Senate as a Democrat in Iowa in 1962 and 1966. He served on the U.S. Board of Foreign Scholarships, which administers the Fulbright program. He was also a lifetime member of the Association and was actively involved in the National Capital Area Chapter. He also served as the vice president and president of the Fulbright Association Board of Directors from 1989-1991. Source Washington Post