2013 Annual Appeal
IMAGINE WHAT WE COULD DO!

BY STEPHEN REILLY
AS A FULBRIGHT ALUMNUS I feel personally responsible for the promotion and protection of the program. Fulbright “changed my life.” I also believe it is the United States’ greatest and most effective implement of foreign policy.

As the Executive Director of the alumni association, I am deeply committed to raising the profile of Fulbright in the world and demonstrating that Senator Fulbright’s vision almost 70 years ago is as relevant and important as ever today. I also need your support more than ever as we transition to a more proactive and effective organization with stronger advocacy, innovative programs, new events and more.

In 2013 we have emerged with new leadership and vision to serve our community in more substantial ways. Though finances are currently very tight, I am highly optimistic about our future and believe we can all ‘do more’ in the name of Fulbright worldwide. Please make a contribution to our annual appeal to help us advance our objectives in the alumni community.

Can you imagine a world without Fulbright?
The Fulbright program works. We are the only organization that can truly advocate on its behalf to ensure it is here for generations to come. The most recent budget request from the House of Representatives includes an almost 25% cut to academic exchange programs, which fund most of the Fulbright program, while the White House request includes a cut of more than 6%. A 25% cut to the program could mean that one out of every four of us would not have the opportunity to participate in the program and advance our objective of promoting mutual understanding between peoples of the world.

Less than 1% of our elected officials nationwide are Fulbright alumni and the disagreement in Congress about spending continues to threaten annual ‘discretionary’ appropriations for exchange programs, including Fulbright. The Classroom Teacher Exchange Program has been discontinued after 64 years in existence. We must continue to enhance our capacity to demonstrate the power of Fulbright and the positive impact it has in the world. We have plans to build our advocacy efforts in 2014 but we will need some of your time and financial support.

As an Association, we continue to host over 200 events across the country through our 60 chapters nationwide. Our annual conference last month brought interesting speakers, new formats, and innovative sessions unlike previous conferences. Speakers included a U.S. Congressman, University Presidents, representatives from Gallup Corporation, Doctors Without Borders, Human Rights Campaign, and even a special appearance by Sheryl Sandberg of LeanIn.org.

You really missed a great event if you were not able to attend but keep your eyes peeled for even more moving forward. In 2014 we will present the Fulbright Prize for International Understanding at a special gala celebration (October – don’t miss it!) and an innovative TEDxFulbright event in April in Washington, DC.

Our chapters, led by volunteer boards of alumni, continue to provide great local programming and opportunities for alumni and visiting Fulbrighters to participate in panels, cultural events, networking and a range of other activities. These chapters will also serve as the springboard to enhancing our advocacy efforts at a grassroots level, introducing valuable programming for young alumni, and engaging with more universities and institutions to help expand our amazing network of Fulbright friends and alumni.

We have a vision for building stronger global connections to extend the reach and engagement of Fulbright alumni. Moving forward we aim to introduce a virtual community enabling greater global connectivity; introduce a mentoring initiative to help open doors for our young alumni; introduce new global programming in unique knowledge tracks to focus on specific themes; and build a Fulbright Corps to provide an opportunity to continue a lifelong commitment to the ideals of the program through global volunteer service.

We hope that you will support us financially towards our annual appeal. We are at a turning point in our history and as a private non-profit, your support is critical to our survival and success. Membership dues provide very little and we rely almost exclusively on contributions to move the organization forward. If you have ever been planning to make a generous contribution, this is the year. If your means are modest, we welcome a contribution in any amount.

Thank you for your involvement. We look forward to a terrific year in 2014.

Have something newsworthy? Email shaz.akram@fulbright.org
INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION WEEK is an opportunity to celebrate the benefits of international education and exchange worldwide. This joint initiative of the U.S. Department of State and the U.S. Department of Education is part of our efforts to promote programs that prepare Americans for a global environment and attract future leaders from abroad to study, learn, and exchange experiences in the United States.

By sharing international cuisine, historical tours, lectures, festivals and receptions, a large number of the Fulbright Association chapters celebrate International Education week. The National Capital Area Chapter partnered up with the Embassy of Thailand to showcase international education exchange. Hosted by his Excellency Mr. Vijavat Isarabhakdi, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Thailand, Fulbrighters were treated to live jazz music and delicious Thai cuisine. The ambassador is also a Fulbright Alumnus.

The joint reception was a great way to celebrate Thai/U.S. educational exchange. Since the inception of the program more than 2,000 Thai students and scholars have traveled to the U.S. with Fulbright, and more than 1,000 American students have studied in Thailand.

This year there are 21 Scholars and students from Thailand who are studying across the U.S. with two in the D.C. area—a lawyer who is completing her LLM at Georgetown, and Scholar working with the Smithsonian Institution on a project titled “Spectroscopic Characterizations of the Ancient Glass Beads.”
AMERICAN ARTIST JANET ECHELMAN reshapes urban airspace with monumental, fluidly moving sculpture that responds to environmental forces including wind, water, and sunlight. Exploring the potential of unlikely materials, from fishing net to atomized water particles, Echelman combines ancient craft with cutting-edge technology to create her permanent sculpture at the scale of buildings. Experiential in nature, the result is sculpture that shifts from being an object you look at, to something you can get lost in.

Echelman first set out to be an artist after graduating college. She moved to Hong Kong in 1987 to study Chinese calligraphy and brush-painting. Later she moved to Bali, Indonesia, where she collaborated with artisans to combine traditional textile methods with contemporary painting.

When she lost her bamboo house in Bali to a fire, Echelman returned to the United States and began teaching at Harvard. After seven years as an Artist-in-Residence, she returned to Asia, embarking on a Fulbright lectureship in India.

With the promise to give painting exhibitions around the country, she shipped her paints to Mahabalipuram, a fishing village famous for sculpture. When her paints never arrived, Echelman, inspired by the local materials and culture, began working with bronze casters in the village.

She soon found the material too heavy and expensive for her Fulbright budget. While watching local fishermen bundling their nets one evening, Echelman began wondering if nets could be a new approach to sculpture: a way to create volumetric form without heavy, solid materials.

By the end of her Fulbright year, Echelman had created a series of netted sculpture in collaboration with the fishermen. Hoisting them onto poles, she discovered that their delicate surfaces revealed every ripple of wind.

Today Echelman has constructed net sculpture environments in metropolitan cities around the world. She sees public art as a team sport and collaborates with a range of professionals including aeronautical and mechanical engineers, architects, lighting designers, landscape architects, and fabricators.

She built her studio beside her hundred-year-old house, where she lives with her husband David Feldman and their two children.

Recent prominent works include: “Her Secret is Patience” spanning two city blocks in downtown Phoenix, “Water Sky Garden” which premiered for the 2010 Vancouver Winter Olympics, “She Changes” on the waterfront in Porto, Portugal, and “Every Beating Second” in San Francisco Airport’s new Terminal Two.

Recipient of the Guggenheim Fellowship, Echelman was named Architectural Digest’s 2012 Innovator for “changing the very essence of urban spaces.” Her TED talk “Taking Imagination Seriously” has been translated into 33 languages and is estimated to have been viewed by more than a million people worldwide. She has also served on the Board of Directors of the Fulbright Association.

Upcoming projects include the University of Oregon Matthew Knight Arena, and the remaking of Dilworth Plaza in front of Philadelphia City Hall — turning it into a garden of dry-mist. Source http://www.echelman.com/about/
Exploring six degrees of separation in Fulbright branding workshop

BY MARY MARES-AWE

LEADERSHIP, CONNECTIONS, relationship building, common values...these are some of the concepts discussed at last Saturday, Nov. 9, 2013 workshop entitled “The Fulbright Branding Effect on Membership Development” that took place in the journalism department at Columbia College Chicago.

The workshop was possible thanks to a small grant from the National Fulbright Association and led by Fred Siegman, a branding expert and consultant to major corporations and nonprofit organizations. Thirty-five people attended the workshop including eight members of the Fulbright Chicago Chapter board. Organized by Chicago Chapter Director of Membership Ana Gil-García, and President Ron Harvey, the purpose of the four-hour training session was to develop a strategy to promote the Chicago Chapter, expand awareness of its activities among Fulbright alumni, and increase membership.

Participants had the chance to get to know one another through a series of communication exercises. Because of the workshop we now know where the term “six degrees of separation” comes from. It’s all about finding commonality with complete strangers and building new relationships.

For me personally, it was fun to learn, in just a few seconds, that I had something in common with the person sitting next to me. It turns out we both are life-time members of the Fulbright Association. She had a Fulbright to Warsaw, Poland; my best friend in college was born in Warsaw, and the Cultural and Educational Attaché at the American Embassy in Macedonia, the country where I had my Fulbright, taught ESL in Poland before joining the Foreign Service.

Siegman also emphasized the importance of sharing experiences and learning from each other especially from those who’ve been part of Fulbright for many years. He said the workshop provided a great reflection of cross generational communication and shared interests.

“We have here age groups spanning 40-50 years” Siegman observed. Just then someone chimed in “65 years... or more.” All heads turned in his direction. To everyone’s surprise and delight, he introduced himself as 88-year-old Dr. Bruce Douglas, the first president of the Chicago Chapter of the Fulbright Association. Dr. Douglas will be interviewed in an upcoming post that will appear on the www.fulbrightchicago.com website.
Nine foreign scholars visit Huntsville

BY PAT AMMONS

AUNG PHYO LIVES in a city of six million people in the Southeast Asian country of Myanmar. It's a teeming city full of traffic, pollution and apartment complexes.

That's why a stroll through the quiet, tree-filled Big Spring International Park this weekend left such an impression on Phyo, who is in Alabama for a year as an International Fulbright Scholar.

Phyo is a medical doctor in Myanmar and is working on a master's degree in public health at the University of Alabama at Birmingham as part of his fellowship. He's staying with a host family in Birmingham for his time in the states, his first trip out of his native country, he said. He visited Huntsville for three days as a guest of the Alabama Chapter of the Fulbright Alumni Association and the International Services Council of Alabama.

"It was amazing," Phyo said of Huntsville's downtown park as he prepared to eat lunch at Hudson Alpha Institute for Biotechnology. He and his fellow scholars were making a stop there to learn about the institute's work as well as to extract DNA from macerated strawberries.

All nine of the visiting Fulbrighters, as they are called, are teaching or doing research at either Auburn University, the University of Alabama at Birmingham or Birmingham Southern College for the period of their program. Nicole Harper, a board member of the state's Fulbright alumni chapter said.

About 8,000 Fulbright scholars and fellows from more than 155 countries are chosen each year. A fellow is still a student and is using his or her fellowship to work toward a degree while the scholars are working professionals, Harper said. The scholars visiting Huntsville were from China, Ivory Coast, Kenya, Kazakhstan, Myanmar, Vietnam and Yemen.

Harper helped arrange the tour of Huntsville, which included trips to the U.S. Space & Rocket Center and Burritt on the Mountain. Glenn Dasher, the chairman of the art department at the University of Alabama in Huntsville, led the group on a tour of the SPACES Sculpture Trail, and local families hosted the scholars during their stay here.

"It's fantastic for us to showcase something here in Huntsville that they may not see anywhere else in the state," said Harper, who spent a year in Slovenia as a Fulbright Fellow in 2007-2008. She was finishing her doctoral work in curriculum studies for her fellowship, she said.

The Alabama chapter had plans for four events for the visiting scholars this year, including two in Birmingham, one in Montgomery and the one in Huntsville. "It's a cultural enrichment opportunity," Harper said.

For Fuyi Zhu, the tour of the 36 sculptures that make up the SPACES trail was one of the highlights of her trip to Huntsville. She is working on a research project about the history of modern landscape architecture while at Auburn University this year. She's also learning about the American national park system, a concept that does not exist in her native China.

The idea of a trail devoted to public art was also a new concept to Zhu and one she found exciting. "I am glad to know Huntsville has an open mind to let artists express themselves. It's great."

Dr. Stacey Nickson, who is the assistant director of teaching and learning at Auburn University, was accompanying the scholars on their tour of Huntsville. She is working on a research project about the history of modern landscape architecture while at Auburn University this year. She's also learning about the American national park system, a concept that does not exist in her native China.

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"It's culturally enlightening but also enlightening on a very humanistic level," Nickson said. "It's a forum to be human together" through shared experiences and through getting to know each other.
Help music film Death Metal Angola take resilience on the road

By Andy Markowitz

It’s been a busy fall for Death Metal Angola, Jeremy Xido’s music-based documentary about how one of the most ferocious forms of rock is reshaping lives in one of the most war-ravaged places on Earth, and in the days to come it will screen at Sound Unseen in Minneapolis/St. Paul, DOC NYC (with current New Yorker Xido in attendance), and—perhaps most important—the Luanda International Film Festival in Angola’s capital.

Well, Xido is just getting started. And like his subjects—the metal-loving women, men, and children living in and around an orphanage in the scarred city of Huambo who set out to hold Angola’s first national rock concert—he is, in his own words, “dreaming big.” The Detroit-born filmmaker and artist has teamed up with the Fulbright Association on the DMA Resilience Tour—a series of screenings, town-hall discussions, and concerts in communities throughout the United States that have been hit hard by economic and natural disasters,” according to the freshly launched RocketHub crowdfunding campaign to support the project.

If they make their $50,000 goal by December 15, the tour will kick off with limited theatrical engagements in New York and LA then roll out to Detroit, New Orleans, Baltimore, Oklahoma City, and a fifth city that produces the most RocketHub pledges. Money raised beyond the 50K target will be used to take the doc further afield and even bring some of its featured Angolan musicians to perform in the States. As the Fulbright Association is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, contributions to the campaign are tax-deductible.

Raucous, moving, and beautifully shot, Death Metal Angola ought to serve well as a starting-off point for conversations and community action to renew places hit hard by adversity in all its forms, with or without screeching guitars and throat-shredding growls (although, as the movie makes clear, those don’t hurt). For more on the film and the people at its heart, check out the May 2013 Interview with Xido.

Support the Fulbright Association: Financial Options That Work!

While the Fulbright Association will always be very pleased to accept cash gifts, here are some other financially prudent options for donating other assets in support of the association.

- **Gifts of cash** are fully deductible—up to a maximum of 50% of your adjusted gross income. For example, if your adjusted gross income for this year is $100,000, up to $50,000 of charitable gifts may be deducted.

- **Gift of Stock** is often more tax-wise to contribute than cash. This is because a gift of appreciated stock generally offers a two-fold tax saving: a) you avoid paying any capital gains tax on the increase in value of the stock, and b) you receive an income tax deduction for the full fair market value of the stock. In order to qualify for these significant tax advantages, you have purchased the stock more than a year ago. Gifts of appreciated stock are fully deductible—up to a maximum of 30% of your adjusted gross income.

- **Gift through your Will or Bequest** is one of the simplest and most common ways to support the Fulbright Association. The association can be named as a beneficiary of your Will. You may choose to designate dollar amount or percentage of your estate as an outright gift. You can also make a gift of all or part of your property remaining after all other bequest has been paid, or a gift that takes effect only if your beneficiaries do not survive you. Any charitable bequest to the Fulbright Association is automatically excluded from your taxable estate and thus is not subject to estate taxes. You can easily add the Fulbright Association to your will through an amendment to your will called codicil: thus your entire will does not have to be redrafted.

- **Gift of assets in your Individual Retirement Account (IRA) or other qualified retirement plan** can be the basis of your future gift to the Fulbright Association, if you or your family does not need all the funds in this retirement account. You may utilize this type of gift by naming the Fulbright Association as a beneficiary of all or a designated percentage of your IRA or other qualified retirement plan. This gift has the unusual advantage of avoiding potential future income taxes as well as estate tax.

- **Gift of Life Insurance** provides an easy way to make a gift to the Fulbright Association if you or your family no longer needs the protection of your life insurance coverage. You can irrevocably name the association as owner of the policy and receive an income tax charitable deduction. Depending on the type of policy, you may or may not be required to continue payment of premiums. You can also designate the association as beneficiary of your policy and receive an estate tax deduction.
Alumni recent accomplishments

Regina Mamou is a Chicago-based visual artist working at the intersection of photography, installation, and research practices. Mamou is currently exhibiting “Unfortunately, It Was Paradise” at the City Gallery in the Historic Water Tower, 806 North Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60611. This photo exhibit will remain open until January 19, 2014.

In 2009 she received a fifteen-month Fulbright fellowship to Jordan to explore navigational methods and memory in Amman. She has exhibited her work nationally and internationally. Selected exhibitions include Makan Art Space in Amman, Jordan (2010); Action Field Kodra’s 11th Exhibition of Contemporary Art in Thessaloniki, Greece (2011); and The Chicago Project online at Catherine Edelman Gallery (2012).

Mamou holds an MFA from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago and a BFA from the Rhode Island School of Design. For more information visit reginamamou.com

Kathleen Mulligan has been named a recipient of The International Alliance of Women (TIAW) World of Difference Award for her project “Wheels for Women”, which benefits the residents of the Sakhi Shelter for victims of domestic violence in Kerala, India.

While on a Fulbright-Nehru grant to Kerala in 2010, Kathleen taught her workshop “Finding Your Voice” to residents of the Sakhi shelter.

As a result of that experience, Kathleen and her husband David created “Wheels for Women,” producing annual benefit student cabarets at Ithaca College to purchase auto rickshaws for the shelter and provide driver training and licensing to its residents. To date, “Wheels for Women” has funded job training for seven residents, providing them with the skills to move towards financial independence and away from their abusers. The fourth annual “Wheels for Women” Cabaret will be held in late January 2014 at Ithaca College.

Kathleen will be presented with the award during TIAW’s Global Forum in Washington D.C. in March 2014.

Alexandra HUDDLESTON is an American photographer who was born in Freetown, Sierra Leone, and grew up in the Washington, DC area and in West Africa.

She holds a BA from Stanford University and an MS in broadcast journalism from Columbia University. Her work has been published in The New York Times, Zeit Magazine, and National Geographic Explorer, and exhibited in group and solo shows worldwide. Among other honors, she has received a Fulbright Grant for her photographic work.

Her prints are in the permanent collection of the US Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division and the Smithsonian Institution National Museum of African Art Eliot Elisofon Photo Archives.

Her book 333 Saints: A Life of Scholarship in Timbuktu / 333 Saints: l’esprit du savoir à Tombouctou, is now published and available for sale. Huddleston worked on this book for over six years —since her Fulbright grant made the research and photographs possible in 2007.

Using large-format photography, Regina Mamou’s Unfortunately, It Was Paradise explores historical utopian communities established by secular and religious movements throughout the Midwest and mid-Atlantic regions.
CALL FOR NOMINATIONS
J. William Fulbright Prize For International Peace and Understanding

Nominations are now open for a person (or group) who exemplifies the vision of the Fulbright Program for this award. The Fulbright Association—the official U.S. association for alumni and friends—began awarding the Prize in 1993.

Past recipients include:

1993  Nelson Mandela
President of South Africa, 1994-1999

1994  Jimmy Carter
President of the United States of America, 1977-1981

1995  Franz Vranitzky

1996  Corazon C. Aquino
President of the Philippines, 1986-1992

1997  Václav Havel
President of the Czech Republic, 1990-1994

1998  Patricio Aylwin Azocar
President of Chile, 1990-1994

1999  Mary Robinson
United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, 1997-2002

2000  Martti Ahtisaari
President of Finland, 1994-2000

2001  Kofi Annan
Secretary-General of the United Nations, 1997-2007

2002  Sadako Ogata

2003  Fernando Henrique Cardoso
President of Brazil, 1995-2003

2004  Colin L. Powell
Secretary of State of the United States of America, 2001-2005

2006  William Jefferson Clinton
President of the United States of America, 1993-2001

2008  Desmond M. Tutu
Archbishop Emeritus of Cape Town, Anglican Church of Southern Africa

2010  Bill & Melinda Gates
Co-chairs of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

2012  Médecins Sans Frontières/Doctors Without Borders
International medical humanitarian organization

Médecins Sans Frontières/Doctors Without Borders (MSF) is the first organization to accept the Endowed Prize of $50,000 for its extraordinary international work as a humanitarian organization.

All members and friends of the Association are invited to participate by nominating a potential awardee. All are further encouraged to offer their financial support and to join in the celebration of the spirit of international service through educational and cultural exchange. The 2014 prize will be awarded at a gala ceremony in Washington, D.C. on October 18, 2014. SAVE THE DATE and plan to attend!

TO NOMINATE, SEE FORMAT AND CRITERIA:

Format:
In ONE page:
- Name and contact of nominee.
- Brief biographical statement focused on activities exemplifying the purpose of the award.
- Statement of Rationale.
- Name and contact of person nominating potential awardee.

Criteria:
- Represents the ideal of service in the international educational and cultural arena which furthers peace and understanding among the peoples of the world, the vision underlying the Fulbright Program.
- Significant international reputation for sustained work toward peace and understanding with effects not limited to a single country.
- Ability to travel to Washington, D.C. and to give a major speech at the award ceremony on October 18, 2014.
- Nominees cannot be current government employees. The awardee will be chosen in a non-discriminatory manner.
- Nominations will be held in confidence until the winner has been notified and acknowledged acceptance of the Prize.

DEADLINE FOR NOMINATIONS
December 31, 2013.
Send completed one-page nomination statement to:
Mary Ellen Schmider at mehscls@yahoo.com

The 2014 J. William Fulbright Prize for International Understanding awardee will be chosen by an International Committee of distinguished alumni and friends of the Fulbright Program. To avoid politicizing the process, committee members will remain anonymous until the winner has been announced.