



CANADA-U.S. EXCHANGE ALUMNI
ANCIENS DES ÉCHANGES CANADA-É.-U.

ALUMNI NEWS

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Public Affairs

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Hello to you---readers of the Alumni News. My name is Crystal Meriwether and as Cultural Affairs Officer (CAO) at U.S. Embassy-Ottawa since July 31, 2009, as well as 'editor-in-chief' of this publication, I would like to introduce myself. Born in central Minnesota, I consider Saint Paul, its capitol city, my permanent home. Professionally, I am a life-long-learner who chose to be an educator focusing on the primary-secondary school world for two decades. I then morphed into an educational consultant in the international arena, and most recently became a U.S. Foreign Service Officer in 2000. My career has spanned four decades, several continents, multiple job titles and responsibilities, and wonderful opportunities for learning, service and adventure.

As CAO-Canada, my responsibilities include the planning and implementation of both academic and cultural activities that foster mutual understanding between the people of the United States and Canada and the other countries of the world to promote positive relationships. This work happens through the partnership of Public Affairs colleagues throughout Canada at our US Consulates and the Cultural Affairs team in Ottawa, and Washington, DC.

I am particularly interested in the Canada-U.S. Alumni Community not only because of my professional responsibilities as CAO, but because one of my fondest learning experiences was my Fulbright-Hayes scholarship to Italy during the summer of 1986. This was the time when the restoration of the Sistine Chapel in St. Peter's was underway. Half of the masterpieces were dark and somber, while the colors of the other half were as bright as comic books frames. As a Fulbright alumnus, I can speak to the success of that program in creating strong relationships among our group of very curious U.S. middle school principals and humanities and classics teachers and the wonderfully knowledgeable Italians who shared themselves and their country with us as we shared who we were as Americans with them. The State Alumni website has enabled me to find some of those colleagues and re-establish our connections.

I encourage you to subscribe to both the Embassy's Canada-US Alumni and ECA's State Alumni Associations to make use of the networking, information, and resource opportunities available. There are more than 1 million ECA program alumni around the world, including more than 40 Nobel Laureates and over 300 current and former heads of state and government. Additionally, I hope that you will share your experiences with your alumni colleagues through this publication as well as the other Embassy generated electronic media at your disposal including Facebook and Twitter. We look forward to hearing and sharing your stories.

Alumni Messages

Claire Williams, 2003 American Fulbright Scholar: As a Canada-U.S. Fulbrighter, I worked for the U.S. State Department from 2007-2008 as a science adviser in environment and energy. This was part of AAAS science diplomacy fellowship. Unlike most other science diplomacy fellows, my assignment was in a geopolitical bureau (EUR) where I worked at the U.S.-EU interface. My new 2009 book with Springer Publishers, "Conifer Reproductive Biology" includes a wonderful foreword written by my Canadian Fulbright Specialist host at the University of Victoria, Professor Patrick von Aderkas.

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Studying Religious Tolerance in America, By Betty Rice, U of Calgary

Each year, the U.S. State Department selects just a handful of Canadians to take part in its International Visitor Leadership Program. Throughout the year, these three-week programs offer extensive, intensive study tours to men and women from around the world who are considered rising stars in their fields.

Past local recipients include Calgary Mayor Dave Bronconnier, Alberta Education Minister Dave Hancock, and the U of C's Robert Mansell and Rob Huebert. This week, the Faculty of Education celebrates its first participant—Assistant Professor Rahat Naqvi.

Naqvi, who is with the faculty's Division of Teacher Preparation, researches literacy development, integration and learning of minority language students. She will have the opportunity to examine, first-hand, efforts underway in the U.S. to address issues of immigration, religion, diversity, tolerance and understanding.

Naqvi's program, which began this week, will take her from Washington to New York, Los Angeles, Indianapolis and Dallas. "I am honoured to represent the University of Calgary as I travel across the U.S. to major research institutes and to meet with a variety of religious groups," she says. "This program will broaden my perspective and, more than anything, reinforce my belief that work in this area is important."

"My experiences in this program will focus on America's educational policies and efforts being made to reach out and promote interfaith dialogue," says Naqvi. "I see all these initiatives as part of building bridges and promoting ways to better understand how we might live well in today's world."

Views expressed in "Alumni News" are those of the contributors and do not necessarily reflect official U.S. Government views.

Alumni Messages

Adam Tanga, 2009 American Killam Student: The United States and Canada are two countries that pride themselves in their multiculturalism. Coming to Ottawa as an American Killam fellow from Hawaii, I have lived this from three angles. First, as someone born and raised in the most diverse state, second as a resident of a Seattle suburb, and third, living in Ottawa. The University of Ottawa, an institution that instructs in both English and French, has been an ideal setting to experience Canada. I attended a screening of *Entre les murs*, a French film about an inner city school in Paris, and participated in the discussion afterward. Feeling a bit intimidated by glances from the francophone professors and students, my nervousness broke at the mention of *l'échec du modèle Américain*. These were the words of a young *Québécoise* around my age who went on to compare the struggles of the young Martinican student to the achievement gap of minorities in America. The only American in the room, I responded by telling a similar story of adjusting to a new school in Seattle when I was ten and that if there was a failure, of which there were many, they were personal ones. I felt awkward but humbled by the unexpected praises for my determination though mostly for choosing their school. Many could relate, when I explained to their pleasant surprise that, Hawaiians, like French Canadians, have overcome much to protect our language and culture. Although the name of that *Québécoise* escapes me, what touched me that night were her words after the discussion: I never knew the real America... you, are America.

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Michael Dorsher, 2008 American Fulbright Scholar, is author of four major entries in Sage Publishing's new "Encyclopedia of Journalism." Dorsher, an associate professor of journalism at the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire, wrote these articles while at McGill and is the only contributor to the encyclopedia listed at a Canadian university. In an entry on the top-dozen sportswriters, Dorsher included Red Fisher, the Montreal Gazette columnist who has covered the Montreal Canadiens and all things hockey for more than 50 years. Also before returning to Wisconsin, Dorsher produced a video on a traditional Quebec maple "sugar shack" that he visited with another Canada-U.S. Fulbright Scholar at McGill, Emilie Boone. The video can be seen at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4i5G04T3KD4>. Last, Dorsher, who lives in Minneapolis, was recently elected to the board of directors of the newly revived Minnesota chapter of the Fulbright Alumni Association.

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Edmund Searles, 1994 American Fulbright Scholar has recently published an article in the anthropology journal *Ethnology*, vol. 47, issue 4, pp. 239-255. The title of the article is "Inuit Identity in the Canadian Arctic."

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U.S. Embassy's Information Resource Center (IRC)

Research and Reference Services. Got a question about the U.S.? Looking for the latest public policy statement? A U.S. law? The IRC can help with your request for information from or about the U.S. at ottawareference@State.gov

E-Alerts. Subscribe now to any of our services to receive e-mail messages alerting you to new texts and documents on your subject of interest at http://ottawa.usembassy.gov/content/content.asp?section=issues&document=e_alerts

Web Sites. Visit <http://ottawa.usembassy.gov> for information on the Embassy and about the United States. The site is updated daily.

Alumni Social Networking

STATE ALUMNI now has a presence on two social networking websites to reach out to both alumni and potential alumni. The State Alumni groups are open to all to join on the following websites:

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/home.php?#/group.php?gid=31684659276>
and

ExchangesConnect: <http://connect.state.gov/group/statealumni>.

We invite you to connect with State Alumni on both Facebook and Exchanges Connect!

Join the Canada-U.S. Alumni Community

The electronic community has been launched and provides a forum for networking with other alumni interested in Canada-U.S. and Canada-U.S.-Mexico issues. As with most social networking websites, the communities on the State Alumni Website will enable you to find fellow alumni; engage in discussion; read and post articles, and learn about alumni achievements and announcements from the Department of State and the Embassy. Registered alumni will be able to participate in live Q & A sessions with special guests and the sessions' transcripts will be available on-line as well.

These new communities have all that the global community has, including the research databases and more. We invite you to extend your networking by taking advantage of this opportunity to further your research and professional contacts with fellow alumni.

To be a part of the community, you need to register on the State Alumni Site at <https://alumni.state.gov>

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Alumni Links

State Alumni
US Embassy
Canada-U.S. Fulbright Program
State Department Main
State Department Current Issues

<https://alumni.state.gov>
<http://ottawa.usembassy.gov>
www.fulbright.ca
www.state.gov
www.usinfo.state.gov

State Alumni Network

The Department of State Alumni Network provides a great opportunity for State Alumni to remain in touch and meet others from around the world who have participated in U.S. government-sponsored programs. Those connected to the network can take advantage of upcoming web chats with experts, receive alumni news, free academic journals, global newspaper databases, and learn about grant opportunities. Update your user profile information if you have already signed up or register now at <https://alumni.state.gov>

Alumni Messages

À la découverte des musées américains

Qui refuserait un voyage de dix jours aux États-Unis avec comme seule condition de visiter des musées? Dans le cadre des programmes d'échange parrainés par le Gouvernement des États-Unis (IVLP), le Consulat général des États-Unis à Montréal a offert au Musée McCord d'histoire canadienne de participer à un programme d'étude spécifiquement conçu pour des professionnels provenant de divers musées canadiens. Le choix du candidat par la direction du Musée McCord s'est porté sur mon humble personne et j'ai accepté tout de go!

"L'International Visitor Leadership Program" invite environ 5,000 étrangers aux États-Unis chaque année pour rencontrer et discuter avec leurs homologues professionnels, ce grâce à la générosité du Département d'État. J'ai donc séjourné du 27 septembre au 9 octobre 2009 chez nos voisins du sud, en compagnie de neuf collègues provenant de différentes provinces canadiennes. Notre petit groupe, ainsi que deux valeureux accompagnateurs américains, a visité pas moins de deux douzaines de musées situés à Washington la magnifique, Minneapolis la moderne et Atlanta l'authentique.

Cette extraordinaire opportunité m'a permis de bonifier mon réseautage professionnel tant du côté américain que du côté canadien. L'organisation de ce voyage était réglée au quart de tour. Toutes les administrateurs rencontrés, d'une grande disponibilité, nous ont démontré leur passion et leur dévouement à la cause muséologique. Il est fascinant de constater comment les enjeux et problématiques des musées américains présentent beaucoup de points communs avec les institutions muséales canadiennes.

Je suis extrêmement reconnaissant envers le Consulat général des États-Unis à Montréal de m'avoir permis de vivre cette expérience des plus enrichissantes. Ce programme m'a grandement donné l'envie de découvrir d'autres villes et musées américains.

Christian Vachon (2010 IVLP), Chef, Gestion des collections, Musée McCord d'histoire canadienne



In late September, 2009, our group of ten museum professionals left Canada for a 10-day trip to Washington D.C., Minneapolis, and Atlanta. We visited twenty-three museums, libraries, and professional organizations and had meetings with upper management and curatorial staff. We were able to ask questions that reflected the diversity of perspectives and interests within our group. It was possible to take photographs of exhibit installations, didactic materials, as well as artworks. These photographs, along with city itineraries and copies of business cards, have now been placed on a shared network drive

at the Winnipeg Art Gallery to allow other staff to access some of the information gathered on the trip. This program was a fascinating experience and gave insights into the accomplishments and challenges of our American colleagues.

Darlene Wight (2010 IVLP), Curator of Inuit Art, Winnipeg Art Gallery

Fulbright Canada Award Recipients Take the Lead on Environmental Action

Fulbright Canada recently launched the Eco-Leadership Program, which provides micro-grants of up to \$4000 to Fulbright students and scholars currently on exchange between Canada and the United States, as well as alumni of the program. This year, 11 students and scholars have been awarded grants that will assist them in engaging their local community in an activity, event, or program that will have a beneficial impact on the local environment. This pilot program promises to be an incredible success, and has already engaged community leaders, schools, NGOs, and other local authorities.

The recipients of the eco-leadership award were announced on Friday, November 20th, to coincide with the 2009 International Education Week. The theme for this year's International Education Week was *Promoting Global Citizenship*. "They are an inspiring group of individuals, leaders in every sense of the word," says Dr. Michael Hawes, Executive Director of Fulbright Canada. "They are international students and scholars who have travelled to their neighbouring country, who are incredibly dedicated to their research and studies, and yet feel compelled to give back to their host communities by assisting them in confronting these shared environmental challenges."

The winners include Victoria Shaw, an American Fulbright Student from Hanover College, in Environmental Studies at McGill University, and Holly Cronin, a Fulbright Student from Columbia University, pursuing history and Canadian Studies at the University of New Brunswick. Ms. Shaw will be introducing an indoor vermi-composting program at on-campus residences at McGill, while Ms. Cronin will be working with local community partners to build a new footbridge that will protect a portion of wetlands in the Grand Manan Islands of New Brunswick.

This program is about community engagement. None of the recipients will receive funding for salaries, bursaries or stipends. In any cases where labour or services are required, the successful applicants will engage volunteers from the local community.

Several of the recipients of the Eco-Leadership grants are Canadians currently in the United States. These recipients include Dr. Chris Lemieux, a scholar from the University of Waterloo, who is currently conducting research on comparative environmental policy at SUNY, Plattsburgh, and Dr. Christine Rivas, a scholar from Carleton University, who is currently conducting research on racial consciousness at Vanderbilt University. Dr. Lemieux will be hosting an Eco-Fair in Plattsburgh, New York to mark the 20th anniversary of Earth Day on April 22, 2010. This fair will include participation and partnership with community groups, youth groups, and green companies and vendors from the Plattsburgh community. Dr. Rivas, with the help of local environmental groups, will be developing a plant pollinator garden in Nashville, Tennessee that will help to recover the decrease in the population of key pollinators such as bees, birds, bats and butterflies in urban spaces.

"I was excited to see Fulbright Canada further extend its positive influence on the international community and the environment by launching the Eco-Leadership Program," says Victoria Shaw. "I appreciate the extra support to address an important environmental issue and connect with my host institution and my host city during my Fulbright experience."

By engaging our brightest minds in academic exchanges, Fulbright Canada seeks to enhance mutual understanding between Canada and the United States. Through its bilateral academic exchanges, outstanding students, scholars, and professionals, Fulbright Canada strengthens Canada-U.S. relations by examining a wide range of subjects which are critical to the relationship between the two countries. For additional information please go to www.fulbrightcanada.com