



Alumni News



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EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA IN CANADA

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Canada – U.S. Alumni News Highlights:

A Message from Ambassador David Jacobson, Fall Alumni Symposium ‘save the date’, New Alumni website and Podcasts, Alumni Messages.

Table of Contents:

A MESSAGE FROM AMBASSADOR DAVID JACOBSON

NEWS AND EVENTS

Save the Date: Fall Alumni Symposium
Halifax Alumni Meet with the Deputy Chief of Mission
New Canadian Alumni Website
Alumni Podcasts

NEWS FROM FULBRIGHT CANADA

Community Leadership and Eco-Leadership Programs - Competitions Open August 15th!
2011-2012 Student and Scholar Competitions - NOW OPEN!
McGill University’s Institute for the Study of International Development: Executive Education Program
9th Annual Killam Lecture
Fulbright Canada Advisory Committee on Alumni Activities

ALUMNI MESSAGES

Marian H. Adly, 2004-05 American Fulbright Student
Michael Dorsher, 2008-09 American Fulbright Scholar
Denys Volkov, 2007 Canadian Voluntary Visitor
Jane Hilderman, 2010-11 Canadian Parliamentary Intern
Rishma Dunlop, 2009-10 Canadian Fulbright Chair in Creative Writing
Alumni Profile: Mahdi Qasqas, SCIVLP on Promoting Moderate Voices, FY-2011
Fulbrighter of the Month: An Interview with Andrew Levinson, 2010-11 American Fulbright Student

REFERENCE

U.S. Embassy’s Information Resource Center (IRC)
Alumni Social Networking
Join the Canada-U.S. Alumni Community
State Alumni Fulbright Library
SHARE YOUR STORIES, EXPERIENCES AND SUCCESSES!!

CONTACT INFORMATION & LINKS

A MESSAGE FROM AMBASSADOR DAVID JACOBSON



U.S. Ambassador David Jacobson

The State Department carries out international exchanges that include more than 40,000 individuals on an annual basis, with now over one million alumni from around the world. Having myself done an educational exchange to Japan in 2001, I can express firsthand the importance of exchange programs in bringing people together. I have found that when one participates in an exchange, we not only learn about the host country and its culture but we also learn about our own country from a different perspective.

I had the pleasure of meeting Ottawa-area alumni from Canada's three primary exchange programs – Fulbright, the International Visitor Leadership Program and the Parliamentary Internship Program – at the luncheon that we hosted at the Embassy this past November. The event was a fantastic opportunity for our alumni to connect not only with our Embassy staff, but to get to know and share experiences with each other. I was struck by the enthusiasm, expertise and appreciation for the bond between the U.S. and Canada. As I said at the time, I am sure you appreciate that participation in an exchange program is not a one-time finite event but rather one that marks the beginning of an ongoing relationship.

Across Canada, the U.S. and around the globe, alumni are fostering mutual understanding by sharing their diverse knowledge and talents with their communities. Through developing and nurturing personal connections, the bonds between our two great nations grow even stronger. I invite you to stay connected and expand upon your exchange experience. As a wellspring of knowledge and ability and a testament to the enduring strength of the U.S.-Canada relationship, alumni are an important resource for our Embassy and our Consulates throughout Canada. The importance of a sustained collaboration between the Embassy and alumni cannot be underestimated. Stay tuned for some exciting new initiatives in the coming months!

[Back to Top](#)

NEWS AND EVENTS

Save the Date: Fall Alumni Symposium

The U.S. Embassy is planning a two-day fall alumni symposium to be held in Ottawa on October 20-21, 2011. The event will be open to all Canadian alumni from US. Department of State-sponsored exchange programs (Fulbright, the International Visitor Leadership Program, the Voluntary Visitor Program, and the Parliamentary Internship Programme). The symposium will be designed for alumni to share their interests and experience on a range of themes and to facilitate diverse networking opportunities. Stay tuned for more details in the coming weeks!

Halifax Alumni Meet with the Deputy Chief of Mission

On July 14, the Public Affairs section at the U.S. Consulate in Halifax arranged a small alumni lunch in honor of the visit of Deputy Chief of Mission (DCM), James Nealon to Halifax. Fulbright and IVLP alumni had a chance to catch up with each other and meet the DCM on his first visit to Halifax.



Halifax alumni and U.S. Deputy Chief of Mission James Nealon

New Canadian Alumni Website

The Public Affairs section at the U.S. Embassy in Ottawa is excited to announce the upcoming launch of a new website which will focus exclusively on Canadian alumni of various U.S. State Department programs, as a supplement to the existing State Alumni networking site. This new project will provide a wealth of information regarding upcoming events, ways to stay connected, podcast interviews of alumni, as well as provide a point of contact with the Embassy. The site will also make available an archive for downloading past alumni newsletters.

Please logon and check it out, and feel welcome to contact us to let us know what you are doing, as well as if there is anything we can assist you with. The new site will be updated on a regular basis.

The website will go active in the near future at: <http://canada.usembassy.gov/alumni.html>

Alumni Podcasts

The U.S. Embassy in Ottawa is pleased to inform alumni of a new project. We are launching a series of podcast interviews of Canadian alumni from the many U.S. State Department exchange programs. These podcasts will feature interviews from a broad range of people, such as academics who have participated in the Fulbright program to Canadian Senators who have served in the Parliamentary Intern Program. The interviews will offer a way for alumni to reconnect and share their exchange experience, and discuss how it has impacted their outlook, their education, and their future goals. It has certainly been interesting hearing about the tremendous benefit that these cultural exchange programs have had on alumni.

The podcasts are being posted on the new alumni site, and they will also be made available on the U.S. Embassy in Ottawa's podcast channel on [iTunes](#). If you would like to be interviewed, please contact our Alumni Coordinator, Sandra Weedmark, at weedmarksl@state.gov.

[Back to Top](#)

NEWS FROM FULBRIGHT CANADA

Community Leadership and Eco-Leadership Programs - Competitions Open August 15th!

As part of its 20th anniversary year, Fulbright Canada co-sponsored a new program for alumni with the U.S. Embassy in Ottawa: The Community Leadership Program. This program offers grants (up to \$8,000) to give alumni the opportunity to take action, get involved, and make a difference in their community with fellow alumni. Teams of at least three alumni can apply for these awards (all Canadian and American U.S. Government-sponsored program alumni are eligible). There must be a Canadian team leader for each project, and all team members must reside in Canada to participate. To see examples of what kinds of projects can be sponsored as a part of this program, and to learn more about the application process for this year's competition, visit our [website](#).

The Fulbright Canada-RBC Eco-Leadership Program provides small grants (\$2,000-\$4,000) to Fulbright Canada grantees and Fulbright Canada alumni to engage in environmental action in their home or host communities. This past year, Fulbright Canada and RBC supported [13 Fulbright alumni and current grantees](#) with Fulbright Canada-RBC Eco-Leadership awards. The Fulbright Canada-RBC Eco-Leadership Program builds on the model of our successful Mobility Program, by soliciting proposals from current grant recipients and alumni to undertake community-based environmental initiatives. To learn more about the Eco-Leadership Program and how you can make an application for this year's competition, visit our [website](#).

If you have questions or would like to request more information about either of these exciting opportunities for Fulbright Canada alumni, please contact our Alumni Coordinator, Ms. Jesse Davies, at alumni@fulbright.ca.

2011-2012 Student and Scholar Competitions - NOW OPEN!

The 2012-2013 competitions for both American and Canadian students and scholars are now open! We are currently recruiting future and current graduate students, as well as faculty members, who are interested in undertaking research across the border. As a Fulbright Canada alumnus/alumna, you are a natural ambassador for our program. We encourage you to share your Fulbright Canada experience with others. Please be sure to refer your students and colleagues to our [website](#), which outlines our basic programs as well as all of the enrichment opportunities that we have developed to add value to Fulbright Canada awards.

We would also like to remind you that ***all Canadians and Americans are eligible for up to three Fulbright Canada awards*** (one student award plus two scholar/chair awards). This might be your opportunity to explore the possibility of a new Fulbright Canada experience. For more information on your eligibility, please contact us directly at 613-688-5540.

Competition Deadlines for the 2012-2013 academic year:

U.S. Scholars: August 1, 2011

U.S. Students: October 17, 2011

Canadian Scholars: November 15, 2011

Canadian Students: November 15, 2011

McGill University's Institute for the Study of International Development: Executive Education Program

The Institute for the Study of International Development is one of the few North American epicenters for development research and teaching, generating impressive levels of original research, establishing new relations with the international development community, and training future generations of researchers, teachers, policymakers and development practitioners. Fulbright Canada is partnering with alumnus and Executive Director of the Institute, Mr. Robin McLay, to offer Fulbright Canada grantees and alumni the opportunity to participate in this exciting Executive Education Program, being held in Montreal, QC, October 17-20th. Those interested in participating in this program can apply for one of two full tuition scholarships being offered by submitting a statement of intent, focusing on the professional value of such an experience for the applicant (max. 1,000 words). Applications for sponsorship must be sent to Fulbright Canada directly, post-marked no later than September 30th, 2011, to be considered. If you have questions about the Executive Education Program please contact Mr. McLay (robin.mclay@mcgill.ca), and if you have any questions about applying for sponsorship to participate, please contact our Alumni Coordinator at alumni@fulbright.ca. Decisions will be made on successful applications no later than October 5th, 2011.

9th Annual Killam Lecture

The 9th annual Elizabeth Rodgers Killam and Constance Killam distinguished public lecture in Ottawa is scheduled for Thursday September 15th, 2011 from 5:30pm – 7:00pm. The lecture is coincident with Fulbright Canada's annual orientation for Killam undergraduate exchange students, Fulbright American student grantees in Canada, and American Fulbright scholars in Canada. The lecture is scheduled to take place in the Cadieux Auditorium at the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade Canada. If you are going to be in the Ottawa area mark your calendars as more details on this exciting Fulbright Canada event are to follow.

Fulbright Canada Advisory Committee on Alumni Activities

Fulbright Canada is pleased to announce the inaugural Advisory Committee on Alumni Activities which will engage with our Board of Directors and consult with the Secretariat on alumni activities. Chaired by Mr. Michael Reading (2007-2008, St. Olaf College to CeRIS), the committee has some excellent representation in its first members: Mr. Robin McLay (1998-1999, McGill University to Harvard University), Dr. Christine Rivas (2009-2010, Carleton University to Vanderbilt University), Ms. Stefanie Bowles (2009-2010, Government of Canada to WorldWatch Institute/US Environmental Protection Agency), Dr. Elaine Alpert (2008-2009, Boston University to the University of British Columbia) and our Killam Fellowships representative, Mr. Reggie Singletary (2009-2010, Appalachian State University to Concordia University). It is our hope that the committee will provide a unique opportunity to involve our alumni and to promote their continued participation in the program. For more information about the committee and its activities, or to contact committee members with an idea for an activity or event, please contact alumni@fulbright.ca.

ALUMNI MESSAGES

Marian H. Adly, 2004-05 American Fulbright Student

No doubt my Fulbright experience examining the 2003 Canadian SARS outbreak had a deep impact on my life. Beyond sharing my new expertise with my home state of Illinois through briefing the Illinois Terrorism Task Force, joining a public health team at the local level and then at the state level, followed by a brief opportunity at the United Nations, this experience provided me the opportunity to share Canadian lessons with the U.S. and international public health officials involved with pandemic and emergency planning. However, the impact of Fulbright transcended beyond my professional realm. In 2009, I was faced with a personal emergency: my father had suffered a stroke-like bleed as a result of a fall. Immediately, I was thrust in the midst of a personal emergency that tested every facet of my abilities to manage chaos: to make decisions in the fog of great uncertainty, anticipate threats to my father's life, trust the medical team, and to communicate across and between the great disconnect between medical specialists, clinical institutions and health staff. Relationships and dependencies shifted as quickly as my father's condition during his acute phase. I found myself essentially 'homeless' in the U.S. healthcare system trying to protect and advocate for my father. A couple days stay in the ICU quickly evolved into a prolonged experience shuffling by my father's side from hospital-to-hospital, to-nursing home, to-rehab hospital and then finally in the 10th month my dear father and I made it home together. I would have never guessed that the lessons and remarkable stories of leadership, decision-making, and resiliencies of all the exemplary Canadian public health officials I spoke with during my Fulbright research as they managed the SARS emergency would all converge to one day help me save my father.

Michael Dorsher, 2008-09 American Fulbright Scholar

Mike Dorsher is the co-author of [Controversies in Media Ethics, 3rd edition](#), a 600-page textbook published this June 14 in New York and London by Routledge. Dorsher, an Associate Professor of journalism at the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire, wrote most of his share of the book while he was the 2008-09 Fulbright Visiting Chair in Media at McGill University in Montreal. Also in the past year, as President of the Fulbright Association chapter in Minnesota, Dorsher has led groups of 35 Fulbrighters to the Minnesota State Fair, 45 to a Minnesota Twins game, and 13 to Lac Courtes Oreilles Ojibwe Tribal College.

Denys Volkov, 2007 Canadian Voluntary Visitor

Alumni in Winnipeg, Canada had an unforgettable chance to celebrate the U.S. Independence Day in a historical setting this year. The U.S. Consulate in Winnipeg organized the U.S.-Canada Friendship Day on the one of the oldest operational heritage railways in North America, The Prairie Dog Central Railway.

While enjoying beautiful scenery of the prairies through the windows of a hundred year old coach pulled by a steamed engine, we had the opportunity to talk to the outgoing U.S. Consul Michelle Jones who completed her service in Winnipeg this summer.



U.S. Consul Michelle Jones (left) and Acting Deputy Mayor Paula Havixbeck (right).

The highlight of the day was the speech by Consul Jones from the back of the train - in the best traditions of American politics. The U.S. Consul spoke about the importance of the partnership between Canada and the United States, as well as her personal experience living through extremely cold Winnipeg winters.

The Canadian government representatives have highlighted how closely two countries are interconnected politically, economically and culturally. This year's celebration in Winnipeg has reinforced the importance of the longstanding friendship between two countries. As Aristotle once wrote, "Friendship is a single soul dwelling in two bodies". I would like to thank Consul Jones and the staff at the US Consulate in Winnipeg for organizing this event.

Jane Hilderman, 2010-11 Canadian Parliamentary Intern

The 2010-2011 Parliamentary Interns, thanks to the support of the U.S. Department of State, spent an enriching week in Washington D.C. this past spring during the annual comparative study tour. The U.S. Capitol proved an inspiring setting to explore American politics, policymaking and Canada-U.S. relations. Our agenda, crafted by our counterparts, the American Political Science Association Congressional Fellows, was diverse. We traversed the political landscape covering politicians, Hill offices and political parties through meetings with Representative Lipinski (D-IL), staffers, and organizers at the Democratic National Committee headquarters. Briefings at the Middle East Institute deepened our appreciation of the debate we later witnessed at the Senate Foreign Relations Committee hearing on Libya. Thanks to meetings with the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation and staff of the Senate Indian Affairs Committee, we could compare minority dynamics between the U.S. and Canada. This list of meetings is hardly comprehensive. We also visited some of the magnificent buildings that house the institutions of state: the Capitol Hill buildings, the Supreme Court, and White House, among others. We departed Washington D.C. with one enduring question: "Is there a cure for "capital envy?" Fortunately, the opportunity to host the Congressional Fellows a few weeks later allowed the Parliamentary Interns to show-off all that Ottawa has to offer. This exchange, thus, proved to be an excellent opportunity to deepen the understanding of our neighbor, the U.S, and rediscover an appreciation for one's own country as well.

Rishma Dunlop, 2009-10 Canadian Fulbright Chair in Creative Writing

Fulbright Alumni Rishma Dunlop was the Canada-U.S. Research Chair in Creative Writing in 2009 at Arizona State University's Virginia Piper Center where she will be returning to launch her new book of poems in October 2011. She recently received a Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) grant for her work on the poetics of witness and the role it plays in furthering human rights and the call for justice. Since her Fulbright, she has published: "Paris," in Exile Edition's Carter V. Cooper Short Fiction Anthology Series; "Metropolis Redux," a long poem commissioned for *TOK*, Zephyr Press; a folio of poems in The HarperCollins Book of Modern English Poetry by Indians; "Music Lessons and Other Stories," a scholarly essay in An Anthology of Narrative Inquiry in Music Education, published by Springer Kluwer, and "Vox Humana," a lyric essay in Poiesis: A Journal of Arts and Communication, Vol. 13. Her fifth book of poetry, Lover Through Departure: New and Selected, will be published by Mansfield Press this fall. She has been recently elected as a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada, Academy of Arts and Humanities. She is a professor of English and education at York University, Toronto, Canada. Further information can be found at <http://www.rishmadunlop.com>

Alumni Profile: Mahdi Qasqas, SCIVLP on Promoting Moderate Voices, FY-2011



Left: Alumnus Mahdi Qasqas with Ambassador Jacobson at Calgary's Muslim Youth Centre.
Right: Ambassador Jacobson with youth who frequent the Centre.

Mahdi Qasqas admits that he belonged to a gang when he was a teenager in Palestine. "We called ourselves the 'Chicago' gang. Our rival gang was 'New York'. We listened rap and, for some reason I can't remember, to Kenny Rogers, too" says Qasqas with a laugh.

Now a certified counselor and the first director of Calgary's recently opened Muslim Youth Centre, Qasqas oversees a variety of programs designed to help young people find their way successfully in Canadian society. One of Qasqas' anchor programs is Smooth Transitions, which he developed and launched in 2010, to help Calgary-area youth become better connected to new schools, communities and community resources.

"Whether you're a newcomer to Canada, to a new community, or even a new grade, you face the same challenges," Qasqas told the audience at a recent event he hosted at the youth centre for visiting State Department-sponsored speaker, Dr. Gary Slutkin, founder of Ceasefire, a Chicago-based anti-gang initiative.

"Alienation sits at the root of virtually every bad choice a young person makes, and alienation is a particular problem for Muslim youth today," Qasqas said. "Helping them belong and hooking them up with the positive resources they need to succeed is one of the most important interventions a community can make."

The Smooth Transitions program links students entering a new school with existing students in a welcoming atmosphere of friendly games and competitions, and gives them an opportunity to interact directly with groups and organizations offering useful resources and advice. Qasqas says all students are welcome to participate.

After returning from the IVLP program, Qasqas also worked with the U.S. Consulate in Calgary to organize a dialogue between 12 Muslim youth volunteers at the Centre and U.S. Ambassador to Canada David Jacobson. The young people sat down with the Ambassador to discuss issues they face including racism to Middle East peace.

Mahdi Qasqas says he was excited to introduce Jacobson to the Muslim Youth Centre's Smooth Transitions Outreach Project. "I think the youths are most vulnerable when in transition," adding that includes young people transitioning to junior high, high school, university and even into the workforce.

The event was facilitated by the Muslim Council of Calgary, which represents an estimated 60,000 Calgary Muslims. Qasqas says the young people emerged from the meeting feeling inspired.

"We discussed mostly political questions and human rights and the U.S. but we also asked him about Muslim youths and how we can help to build the community."

The Promoting Moderate Voices IVLP program explored initiatives to facilitate successful youth integration, promote political and social change through non-violent means, and correct misinterpretations of Islam.

Fulbrighter of the Month: An Interview with Andrew Levinson, 2010-11 American Fulbright Student



Andrew Levinson

"If you want to know about moments that I will always remember, the Ottawa trip especially was amazing. Going to the Ambassador's home there - and playing hockey – in hockey country!"

Fresh from his Fulbright experience at York University where he conducted his research in critical disabilities studies, Andrew is the newest alumni to be titled the Fulbrighter of the Month! In an interview with Fulbright Canada, Andrew recalled his recent Fulbright experience:

Fulbright Canada: Can you start by telling us a bit about your plans going forward? Where do you see yourself going next, now that you are just a few weeks away from the end of your semester and your exchange?

Andrew Levinson: Well, I will certainly be looking into obtaining a position in policy and advocacy. I am really interested in international exchange and international relations and now that I've had first-hand experience through the Fulbright Program, I hope to be involved in government and/or the non-profit sector. I want to make change in the way people with disabilities are treated collectively throughout the world. I hope that doesn't sound like too much of a cliché, but I really do want to make positive change for people with disabilities. My ultimate goal is to help people reach the heights they want to reach and to have the opportunities I have had. I want to help give people the ability to pursue their dreams, whatever they may be, despite their having a disability. Being involved in the Fulbright Program, and especially with Fulbright Canada, has been such a wonderful opportunity in that this isn't just about me, it's about the idea of including people with disabilities. I was very honoured to be a part of all this.

FC: Let's talk about your journey to become a Fulbrighter. What initially drew you to the program?

AL: The first time I heard the name Fulbright was around six years ago. I was traveling back from a college football game, and I remember listening to an audio copy of Bill Clinton's autobiography, My Life: The Presidential Years. Clinton mentioned working for Senator Fulbright, the man who inspired the creation of the Fulbright Program. Later, when I heard that the Institute of International Education was going to be holding a meeting at my university in the United States, I immediately thought of the Fulbright Program. I had always wanted to have an experience that would increase not only my academic knowledge, but my cultural knowledge, so I went to the IIE meeting and talked to some people. Then I spoke to a couple of professors at my university who had been Fulbright Scholars as well. It just seemed so interesting and strongly appealed to my desire to travel and experience a new culture, so I decided I would apply for a Fulbright grant. My interest in Canada as my Fulbright destination came after a trip to the Canadian Maritimes. While I was there, I met people with disabilities who were experiencing the attendant care system as wheelchair-users. Meeting these people influenced my desire to study the experiences of people living with disabilities, not just in the U.S., but in Canada.

FC: How do you think being a Fulbrighter has affected you professionally?

AL: I thought about things that I'd never really thought about before, and doing the Fulbright made these things very tangible. I also met a lot of wonderful people in Toronto with whom I plan on staying in contact. This experience has been very special for me that way. I had one professor in particular who is a disability rights attorney in Toronto, and he has opened a door for future communication. I was also able to connect with other Fulbrighters and contacts during the fall orientation in Ottawa. I met Virginia McRae, an Assistant Deputy Minister at the Department of Justice Canada, who, in turn, gave my information to Ruth Barr, who is involved with the Advisory Committee on Persons with Disabilities. Because of those connections, I'll be giving a presentation on my research to a national audience very soon. My presentation will be on the Americans with Disabilities Act, and comparing it with the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act. We will be videoconferencing to Ottawa and Edmonton and teleconferencing to other offices around the country as well. My hope is that this will create even more professional connections. So I would say that I've made a lot of connections definitely, and I've been able to share what I've been doing with a lot of people. It's just been very special that way.

FC: What about personally? Has being a Fulbrighter affected you on a personal level?

AL: I would say that it definitely has. It has been an incredible opportunity for self-enrichment. I learned to appreciate, even more, the American value of "equal opportunity." In other words, it created in me a confidence that the United States remains true to its ideals, by allowing one to pursue research in any field.

FC: What stood out for you most about your experience in Canada?

AL: I experienced the Canadian emphasis on “human rights” for all of its citizens. Even as a visitor, I was swept up in this ideal because it is imbedded in the infrastructure of Canada. This concept has an impact on many different areas of society, including the existence of physical access to transportation and educational services. There is also an acceptance of minority groups here that benefits people with disabilities, and I feel that perhaps when there is more diversity, everybody who is diverse is more comfortable. Everyone is a minority of some sort, if you will. It’s just a theory that I have, but I wonder if Canadian “multiculturalism” extends to the “culture” of disability.

FC: What were some of the differences you noticed between Canadians and Americans?

AL: I found that Canadians are more laid-back in terms of work culture, as is evidenced by the existence of vacationing here. Moreover, Canadians are known to be some of the most highly-educated people in the world, based upon large rates of post-secondary educational attainment, and this might be due to the fact that higher education in Canada is more affordable, with a predominance of affordable, public, educational institutions. In terms of my research, while in Canada my public policy professor told my class that the prevalence of more positive attitudes towards people with disabilities among the Canadian public are often correlated with the presence of people in wheelchairs, as opposed to the presence of people with intellectual disabilities. In my experience, it seems that the United States is the direct opposite to this, as there is a broader acceptance of intellectual disability, as opposed to physical disability, in the U.S.

FC: What was your greatest challenge of your Fulbright experience? And conversely, what was your most positive experience?

AL: My greatest challenge was adjusting to the academic environment in a new country. For example, I had to figure out how to navigate the hierarchical structures in Canadian academia. There were also different academic expectations, with classes that assumed Canadian knowledge. For example, my disability law course focused on the Canadian legal system. On the other hand, my academic activities yielded positive experiences as well. I was invited by one of my professors to speak to a class of undergraduate students about my research. It was a geography class, where people were asking to examine how a person in a wheelchair navigates the physical environment in Canada, and how that concept was different here from in the United States. I really do feel like this grows you as a person. I really would encourage everybody to do foreign exchange, and especially people with disabilities, because it makes you feel like you can take on any challenge. I mean, if you can take on challenges outside of your own country, why not back home? It really puts you on a good path for the future.

FC: Assuming that this type of exchange through the Fulbright Program is important, why do you feel that it is important that we send students and scholars between Canada and the United States to do research?

AL: People need to break down stereotypes, and the greatest thing I was able to do here was helping people to dispel their own stereotypes about Americans, like the idea that America is a warring nation, rather than a peacekeeping one. These stereotypes may start out in a benign way but they can eventually become, in my opinion, a threat to world peace. I think programs like the Fulbright Program ensure that ties between Canada and the U.S., which have been so strong for many years, will endure. People need to see that we may have disagreements but, at the end of the day, we can still come together and have fruitful discussions.

FC: What would you say to someone thinking about applying for a Fulbright?

AL: I would advise them that the program is as world-class as it’s known to be. You will have strong backing from the Fulbright Program, from start to finish. Make sure that your application process is organized, and that you have a strong proposal. If your research idea is unique and involves an idea that you have always wanted to pursue, then just go for it! My Fulbright experience represented a time in my life where I got to do something really special and really important.

FC: Well now you're an alumnus! So you get to stay involved through our alumni programs.

AL: I know, and I cannot say enough about how great I think that is. Why should this experience end, when I get home? To all future Fulbrighters, it is important for you to know that a Fulbright experience is just one step towards creating a better world, both domestically and internationally, and that one can continue on a path to future successes and achievement, as part of the large network of Fulbright Alumni.

[Back to Top](#)

REFERENCE

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

U.S. Embassy's Information Resource Center (IRC) is your information hub. If you are looking for public policy information from or about the United States, feel free to contact the IRC at ottawareference@state.gov or 613.688.5311.

In addition to research and reference, the IRC manages the Mission's public websites and online presence. Updated daily, the website is the premier source for information on the Ambassador, the Embassy and all our constituent posts across Canada, as well as on the work and activities of the U.S. Mission to Canada. You can find more at <http://canada.usembassy.gov>. You can also engage with us [Facebook](#), and [Twitter](#), see photos on [Flickr](#), watch our videos on [youtube](#) or download one of our [podcasts](#) from itunes.

The IRC also offers free email subscription services. Through our new [Link2US](#) service, you receive the Ambassador's monthly newsletters and can sign up for subject-based email current awareness services.

The IRC looks forward to hearing from you with your information requests.

Alumni Social Networking

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>

STATE ALUMNI also has a presence on Facebook. You can join the group at **Facebook:** <http://www.facebook.com/StateAlumni>.

EXCHANGES CONNECT (<http://connect.state.gov>) is an international online community managed by the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational & Cultural Affairs that connects potential, current, and former exchange program participants so that they can discuss application processes, programs, and living abroad.

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. issues. As with most social networking websites, the communities on the State Alumni website will allow you to find fellow alumni, engage in discussion, read and post articles, news 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. The sessions' transcripts will be available on-line as well.

Becoming a member also gives you free online access to thousands of publications!
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>.

State Alumni Fulbright Library

The Fulbright Library on State Alumni is a new way to share, connect and collaborate with other current and former Fulbrighters. It offers a platform for you to share your articles, blogs, classroom materials and other media related to your areas of interest and research, particularly work related to your Fulbright grant.

SHARE YOUR STORIES, EXPERIENCES AND SUCCESSES!!

Public Affairs staff across Canada want to know what alumni are up to in their districts. Help keep us in the loop!

Email cultural@state.gov or contact someone in the list below if you want to touch base with your regional alumni coordinator to discuss your experience and expertise, cooperative opportunities, and upcoming events.

[Back to Top](#)

CONTACT INFORMATION & LINKS

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[Back to Top](#)
