



Alumni News



July 2012 Volume 5, Issue 2

EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA IN CANADA

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

Canada – U.S. Alumni News Highlights: Alumni Small Grants Program and Community Leadership Program Grants—Learn where to apply and about recent uses of these grants that are exclusively available to State Alumni! The State Alumni site will be receiving a name change in the near future!

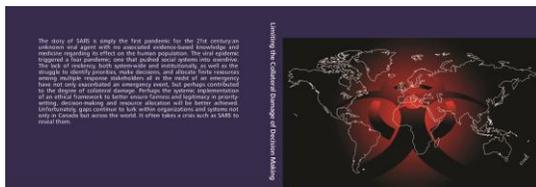
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NEWS AND EVENTS

Publication Feature: *Limiting the Collateral Damage of Decision Making* by Marian H. Adly, American Fulbright Scholar 2004-5 at the University of Toronto



Marian H. Adly
Marian H. Adly works as Director of Quality, Risk Management & Social Media for a healthcare organization in the United States. Previously, she was the co-author of a Fulbright grant researching the experience of the 2003 Canadian SARS outbreak. She holds dual M.Sc. degrees from the University of Toronto and the University of Chicago.

Limiting the Collateral Damage of Decision Making
A Study of the Response to the 2003 SARS Outbreak



978-3-8465-5434-0



Limiting the Collateral Damage of Decision Making: A Study of the Response to the 2003 SARS Outbreak was written by Adly about her Fulbright research at the University of Toronto. The following synopsis is included on the inside flap of the book:

“The story of SARS is simply the first pandemic for the 21st century: an unknown viral agent with no associated evidence-based knowledge and medicine regarding its effect on the human population. The viral epidemic triggered a fear pandemic; one that pushed social systems into overdrive. The lack of resiliency, both system-wide and institutionally, as well as the struggle to identify priorities, make decisions, and allocate finite resources among multiple response stakeholders all in the midst of an emergency have not only exacerbated an emergency event, but perhaps contributed to the degree of collateral damage. Perhaps the systemic implementation of an ethical framework to better ensure fairness

Cover Art of Adly's Book

and legitimacy in priority-setting, decision-making and resource allocation will be better achieved. Unfortunately, gaps continue to lurk within organizations and systems not only in Canada but across the world. It often takes a crisis such as SARS to reveal them.”

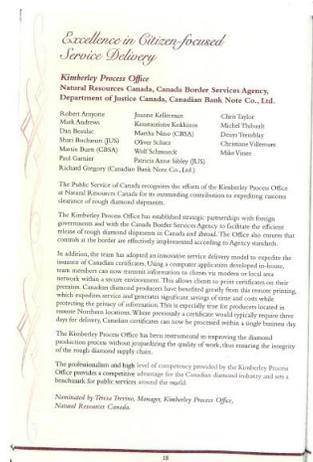
LAP Lambert Academic Publishing
ISBN 978-3-8465-5434-0, paperback, 180 Pages

Congratulations to Teresa Trevino, International Visitors Leadership Program, 2002

Teresa Trevino, manager of the Kimberley Process Office (Minerals and Metals Sector, Natural Resources Canada), nominated her colleagues for the Public Service Award of Excellence. The Kimberley Process Office won for “Excellence in Citizen-focused Service Delivery.” The award states the following:

“The Public Service of Canada recognizes the efforts of the Kimberley Process Office at Natural Resources Canada for its outstanding contribution to expediting customs clearance of rough diamond shipments.

The Kimberley Process Office has established strategic partnerships with foreign governments with the Canada Border Services Agency to facilitate the efficient release of rough diamond shipments in Canada and abroad. The Office also ensures that controls at the border are effectively implemented according to Agency standards.



Excellence in Citizen-focused Service Delivery Award

In addition, the team has adopted an innovative service delivery model to expedite the issuance of Canadian certificates. Using a computer application developed in-house, team members can now transmit information to clients via modem or local area network within a secure environment. This allows clients to print certificates on their premises. Canadian diamond producers have benefited greatly from this remote printing, which expedites service and generates significant savings of time and costs while protecting the privacy of information. This is especially true for producers located in remote Northern locations. Where previously a certificate would typically require three days for delivery, Canadian certificates can now be processed within a single business day.

The Kimberly Process Office has been instrumental in improving the diamond production process without jeopardizing the quality of work, thus ensuring the integrity of the rough diamond supply chain.

The professionalism and high level of competency provided by the Kimberly Process Office provides a competitive advantage for the Canadian diamond industry and sets a benchmark for public services around the world."

THE NEW STATE ALUMNI WEBSITE NAME

The US Department of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA) is updating the State Alumni site to allow easier networking and access to resources for State Alumni. As the ECA makes these changes, the name "State Alumni" will be retired for a newer, more concise name. Voting closed on Wednesday, August 1st to decide between the following names. Look forward to the new changes soon!!

1. What is the best new name for the new State Alumni website?

International Exchange Alumni

Exchange Alumni Network

Exchange Alumni

Other (please specify)

NEW EducationUSA ADVISING CENTER FOR CANADA!

The US Embassy is proud to announce that Michael O'Shea is the new adviser for EducationUSA Canada. In cooperation with Fulbright Canada and the U.S. Embassy in Ottawa, Michael will promote study opportunities in the U.S. for students living in Canada. His efforts will take many forms, including social media campaigns, presentations to interested students and schools, and helping American universities recruit in Canada. He looks forward to drawing Canada and the U.S. closer together through academic exchange. Please contact Michael at EducationUSA@state.gov with any questions or comments.



NATIONAL DIALOGUE ON ALUMNI NETWORKING

Over the past year, alumni throughout the country have been involved in our "National Dialogue on Alumni Networking." Through a series of events sponsored by each of the Consulates and the Embassy, alumni have gathered to discuss ways to further mutual understanding Canada and the U.S.

One of the constants in discussions with alumni is the interest shown in creating something more sustainable. Therefore, a major part of the various events involves discussions to assess the level of interest in a possible alumni association. So, far there has been a lot of interest and we're looking forward to more events as the year progresses.

A clear and well-defined vision, mission and set of goals are critical components of an effective alumni association.

- **Vision:** What the alumni association aims to become.
- **Mission:** What the alumni association strives to become; the vehicle by which the association's goals are attained.
- **Goals:** What an alumni association will do to achieve its mission.

We want to hear from you so feel free to share your comments with Sandra Weedmark at

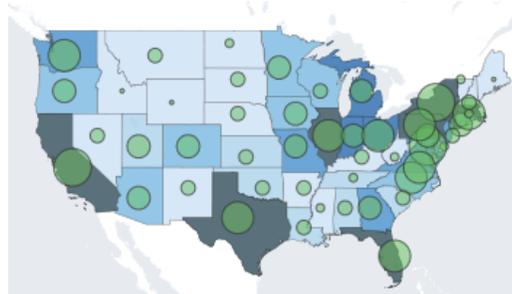
weedmarksl@state.gov.

Here's a sample of some of the alumni networking activities:

Public Affairs Halifax led a half-day workshop to discuss the U.S.—Canada Beyond the Border Agreement. Montreal Alumni were treated to a roundtable with Alan Bersin, of the Department of Homeland Security, and Minister-Counselor for Political Affairs Sam Brock to discuss topics such as border security and flow of trade. In Calgary, alumni met with Ambassador Jacobson and Consul General Laura Lochman at the Glenbow Museum and were treated to an exclusive viewing of the Charlie Russel exhibit. Ottawa's Public Affairs office hosted an Embassy Art Tour in February and an American wine-tasting. Alumni were also invited to participate in a roundtable with Minister Counselor for Economic Affairs, Sue Saarnio. Topics included Beyond the Border, the Trans-Pacific partnership, bilateral environmental issues, and the Republican leadership race. In Winnipeg, alumni gathered for a special program related to the Norman Rockwell exhibit with CG Tom Cipullo and Cultural Attaché Crystal Meriwether. Alumni who participated in programs on trade attended a presentation in Toronto on US-Canada trade by Benjamin Mandel of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York and Laura Dawson of Dawson Strategic. In Vancouver, the Consulate General met with International Visitor Alumni to discuss their experiences.

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

Each alumna/alumnus uniquely impacts the state or states where he or she spent time in the United States. The U.S. State Department's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs recently launched a campaign with the goal of showing how international exchanges economically and culturally affect each U.S. state. They have compiled an interesting interactive website showing the number of exchange students participating in exchanges in each state along with individual state profiles. You can view the map and links [here](#).



For our upcoming newsletters, we want to know how you uniquely contributed to a US state through submissions of pictures and/or written pieces about your time in one of the US' fifty states. For example, you could submit a picture showing you in front of a state's famous monument or showing the natural beauty of one of the US states.

Please send submissions to Exchange Alumni Coordinator and Newsletter Editor Sandra Weedmark at weedmarksl@state.gov.

FOCUS ON OUSTANDING ALUMNI

Johnny McPherson, International Visitors Leadership Program, 2009

Acting Manager, Solid Waste Resource Management, Nova Scotia Department of the Environment

Johnny McPherson's IVLP exchange in 2009 has had tremendous impacts on his personal and professional lives. One of the biggest opportunities that McPherson encountered was upon discovering the Science On a Sphere (SOS) exhibit at the Smithsonian Museum of Natural History. This fascinating technology is hosted in dozens of locations in thirteen different countries throughout the world. SOS is an interactive three-

dimensional globe that can show weather patterns, ocean activity, and other natural occurrences. At the time of McPherson's visit, Canada did not yet have an SOS exhibit.

Fortunately, McPherson's IVLP exchange allowed him to travel to Boulder, Colorado, where he was introduced to the SOS developers and received a thorough demonstration of the SOS technology. Upon returning from his IVLP exchange, McPherson presented the technology to the Nova Scotia Museum of Natural History, hoping that they would invest in the SOS as a teaching tool for Canadians. The museum was initially hesitant, but upon McPherson's encouragement, the Deputy Minister of Environment and several other delegates visited an SOS that was a feature of the 2009 Copenhagen Climate. In September 2011, the Nova Scotia Museum of Natural History opened its own Science on a Sphere exhibit.



Science on a Sphere at Boulder, Colorado. [\(Source\)](#)

This tangible accomplishment of McPherson's IVLP exchange is not the only noteworthy outcome of his experience. McPherson is thankful for the network of alumni provided by his exchange because he believes that it provides "a perspective of diversity which is helpful for understanding diverse relationships and interests necessary for addressing environmental challenges." Through his IVLP peers and the IVLP Advisory Council, McPherson has become friends and colleagues with many Spanish-speakers and is now excited to learn this foreign language.

McPherson has been very active in the Alumni community since his return. Describing his involvement with State Alumni, McPherson explained, "I strive to have ongoing and meaningful interaction with the Advisory Council of alumni in the Americas; I attended alumni workshops in Ottawa and Halifax, sharing my perspectives and experiences in order to promote the benefits of being a state alumnus; and am currently working with other inspired alumni to form an Atlantic Canada State Alumni Network." He also encourages his alumnus peers to benefit from the State Alumni website's resources.

McPherson's exchange and involvement since his return have made him feel part of a global community. He explains that "that feeling is one of having access to resources and expertise to engage on a global level to discuss ideas—discussions that lead to personal and professional development. I also feel that no matter where I travel, I will be able to connect with another trusted and interesting person that has a shared experience."

Find out more about [Science on a Sphere](#).



NEWS FROM FULBRIGHT CANADA

Michael O'Shea, 2011-2012 American Fulbright Scholar, Supports Community Efforts to Develop New Public Park Space in Montreal

Michael O'Shea spent the 2011-2012 academic year studying park space in Montreal at the McGill Institute for the Study of Canada as a Fulbright Scholar. His project focused on the relationship between public park space and community health in Montreal. As part of his work, he studied the quality and quantity of public park space in several economically diverse neighborhoods, and made comparisons between Canada and the United States. The findings of his research are available on his [blog](#) and the urban affairs website, [Spacing Montreal](#).



His Fulbright Fellowship also allowed him to pursue projects with the local community. He was a regular volunteer with the celebrated Montreal meals on wheels program, Santropol Roulant. He also served as a mentor with Big Brothers Big Sisters of Great Montreal, working once a week with a Montreal high school student. Describing his time as a volunteer, Michael said, "Fulbright, in addition giving me an international perspective on U.S.-Canadian relations, also gave me the chance to work locally in Montreal, to get know Canadians on a person level as I worked on volunteer projects in the community."

He received additional funding through the Fulbright RBC Eco Leadership Program to support the creation of a new public park space in Montreal. With funding from the program, he has helped community leaders purchase materials needed to convert an alley in the Plateau-Mont-Royal neighborhood into a "green alley." Once completed, the new public park space will offer a community and recreational space for residents that will simultaneously improve the environment and local quality of life. You can follow the progress of the green alley on the project's blog, "[Parks and Excavation](#)."

Now at the end of his Fulbright, Michael is able to look back at past nine months with satisfaction at what he has accomplished thanks to the Fulbright program and the U.S. State Department.

"I am grateful for the opportunity to pursue something I am passionate about parks and community health in a foreign country," he said. "The Fulbright experience has given me new perspectives on community health and urban planning, as well as a deeper appreciation of the U.S.-Canadian relationship. I built connections with the local community and had experiences I could not even have dreamed of as a college student last year writing my Fulbright application. Thank you for this amazing opportunity."

ALUMNI SMALL GRANTS PROGRAM!!

Remember! Alumni of U.S. government-sponsored exchange programs are invited to apply. To be eligible for this program, applicants must be registered on the State Alumni Website: (<https://alumni.state.gov>). The Alumni Small Grants Program is intended to support alumni leadership in activities in Canada that support U.S.-Canada bilateral foreign policy objectives. Proposals for grants may come in the form of service projects, community development programs, educational initiatives, special projects or other creative initiatives. Please note that grants for projects that are purely research are not eligible for this program.

Grant Amounts: \$1,000 to \$7,500 American based upon available resources.

Contact Information: Please direct questions about the requirements of the Alumni Small Grants Program to Alumni Coordinator Sandra Weedmark at cultural@state.gov. Please put "Alumni Small Grants Program" in the subject line.

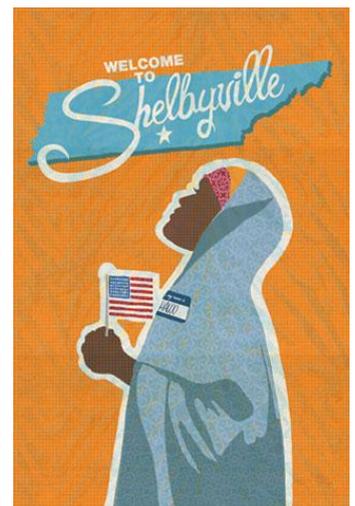
The application is available [here](#).

RECENT USES OF THE ALUMNI SMALL GRANTS PROGRAM:

Erica Bregman, International Visitors Leadership Program, 2011

On Wednesday, June 27, 2012, around 140 community members filed in to a theatre at Rainbow Cinemas to watch Kim Snyder's documentary, *Welcome to Shelbyville*, and a short film about the Jewish-Somali Mentorship Program (JSMP). The films were followed by a Q&A with Ms. Snyder. Erica Bregman, an alumna from an International Visitor Leadership Program on Civic Engagement and Youth Leadership in 2011, and Naima Shegow planned the event because they believe that both films show "that building collaborative partnerships will create more integrated and welcoming communities."

Welcome to Shelbyville documents the lives of several immigrants and their struggles in Shelbyville, Tennessee. In the Q&A with Kim Snyder, the audience identified with "the racial stereotypes and anti-immigrant sentiment in the public and political sphere" presented by the film.



Networking with Results showed the many successes of the Jewish-Somali Mentorship Program. The short documentary can be watched online [here](#).

ALUMNI MESSAGES

Gary Pieters, Study of the United States Institutes (SUSI) Program for Secondary Educators at the University of Illinois at Chicago in 2010

"I attended the National Alliance of Black School Educators (NABSE) 39th Annual Conference, themed "Education is a Civil Right: Today's Strategies that Build Tomorrow's Leaders of African Descent" from November 15-20, 2011 in New Orleans, Louisiana.

This is my 3rd NABSE Conference having previously attended the 2005 Conference in Detroit Michigan and the 2010 Conference in Indianapolis Indiana.

The workshops and presentations explored all aspects of education and how educators and those working in the education sector can better serve the needs of African-American Students (applicable to African-Canadians and Racialized Students of all diversities internationally).

There were several thousand delegates from across the United States, Canada, Europe and the Caribbean.

Noteworthy was the strong representation of Canadian delegations from the Greater Toronto Area, Nova Scotia, Quebec whose estimated number was in the region of one hundred educators whose roles include school and system superintendents, principals, vice-principals, teachers, Ministry of Education officials, curriculum development programmers and retired educators from school boards across the GTA and Nova Scotia.

I felt that the conference was beneficial to my knowledge building and have provided me with a greater sense of purpose, network of support and motivation to engage students, parents, staff and community partners to strengthen our collective commitment and theory of action to improving student achievement, fostering equitable and inclusive schools and infusing culturally relevant and responsive teaching and learning practices into curriculum, teaching and learning to close the various gaps that impede on educational attainment and the life chances of black and racialized students.

During my time in New Orleans, I had a variety of professional experiences which included:

- School site visits and walkthroughs to three schools in the St. Charles Parish of Louisiana. The schools were St. Rose Elementary School (K-5); R.K. Smith Middle School (6-8); and Satellite Centre (10-12).
- Attendance at the opening session of the conference which featured keynote speaker Reverend Jesse L. Jackson Sr., Civil Rights Activist and Founder & President of Rainbow Push.
- Opportunities to engage, spend time and learn from various presenters at workshops and seminars including "Leave No Principal Behind: Leadership Coaching Using the School Principal Change Model as n Approach"; Research Roundtable;
- Opportunities to share as well as learn from various Canadian and American delegations
- Leadership in sharing how the Achievement Gap Report from the Toronto school system aligns with some of the gap closing initiatives being pursued by NABSE and spearheaded by School Districts in Southern California.



- A group meeting with the Toronto District School Board delegation facilitated by School Superintendent Uton Robinson.”

(Gary Pieters is a vice-principal in the Toronto District School Board and the president of the Urban Alliance on Race Relations in Toronto)

**Ailsa Craig, Canadian Fulbright Scholar, 2000-2001, York University to New York University
Craig along with Fulbright alumnae Yolanda Wiersma, Jennifer Selby, and Angela V. Carter received a
Community Leadership Program (CLP) award to work on LGBTQ issues in Newfoundland and Labrador.
By Alisa Craig**

“It is well known that lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer youth are often bullied for their sexuality or gender expression. It is well known that LGBTQ youth are a disproportionate number of Canada’s homeless young people. We know that LGBTQ youth are at a higher risk for suicide and that growing up LGBTQ presents a host of other challenges, including not having—or not knowing, mentors that can help open doors, point to different paths, and listen.



**promoting LGBTQ
resources and awareness**



I’ve worked for freedom of sexual diversity and gender expression for many years. Having spent my Fulbright years in New York City pursuing my PhD, and being from Toronto originally, urban queer communities have always been ‘home’. In 2006, I moved to St. John’s, Newfoundland to work at Memorial University in the Sociology Department. While it is different in many ways, like Manhattan and Toronto, St. John’s is a capital city—a place full of people who love where they live and invest their energy into their communities—and it can feel like it’s the centre of the world. It is a place filled with energy, art, and thriving community values. One of the differences, of course, is the size of the population, and how close to rural life the city of St. John’s is fortunate to be.

As the capital city of the province, many LGBTQ youth are pulled to St. John’s as a larger centre where the possibilities of queer community can thrive—but as I met LGBTQ youth through my work at the university, the need for more resources and services to youth across the province became very clear. While the popular ‘It Gets Better’ foundation with its hopeful videos has done so much for LGBTQ youth and raising awareness, we need to also build the resources that exist for youth where they are right now, even while we continue showing them the promise LGBTQ lives can hold.

So when the call came for applications to the alumni Community Leadership Program, I jumped at the chance to create something to promote awareness of sexual and gender diversity, contribute to LGBTQ youth peer advocacy, and provide much-needed resources to Newfoundland and Labrador youth not only in St. John’s, but across the province. And so, “Make it Better NL” was born—a peer advocacy, resource, and awareness project that is well on its way, and has been able to contribute in ways we didn’t even envision at the start of the project.

Through our community partnership with EGALE Canada, we will be able to distribute our poster and pamphlets to schools across the province, ensuring that we reach every guidance counselor in Newfoundland and Labrador. In August 2011, in conjunction with another community partner, The Newfoundland and Labrador Sexual Health Centre (Planned Parenthood), we did the first Make it Better NL peer advocacy workshop, which culminated in youth making their own ‘Make it Better’ videos. These videos, along with others, will be edited and posted on a website hosted by Planned Parenthood, and will be linked to by our third community partner, the San Francisco-based “Make it Better Project” which works to ensure youth participation and empowerment in the ongoing work of confronting homophobia, transphobia and the challenges of growing up queer. Aside from the work of creating poster and pamphlet resources, through the project, and unexpectedly, as the founder of the project, I’ve presented on sexual diversity, gender diversity, and peer advocacy at several highschools, performed peer-advocacy training to university student volunteers, and been invited to deliver a keynote

Interested in joining or forming a Community Leadership Program project? Visit the [official page](#) for more information. The next application deadline is 5pm EST on October 22, 2012.

address for the National Association to Prevent Child Abuse, where I spoke to social service providers, police officers, and family lawyers from across the country on the connections between homophobia, heterosexism, and child abuse.

Because the project is committed to peer advocacy, resources, empowerment and change, youth are active participants—not only through making videos or attending workshops and talks, but as partners in doing the work of the project. When Make it Better NL goes to Corner Brook this August, a youth member will come to do outreach and resource work. And when Raymond Taavel was killed outside a gay bar in Halifax this spring, it was a youth member who spoke on behalf of the project at the St. John's memorial that was held in solidarity with those in Halifax mourning this committed activist's violent death. It was also a youth member who spoke on behalf of the project at the St. John's Pride Week Flag Raising at City Hall, and it will be youth who will march with our banner on Pride Day, handing out buttons with our logo—a puffin's head with a rainbow beak, to show that LGBTQ life is everywhere, not only in the biggest urban centres, and that sexual and gender diversity are central to the diversity that make all of our communities better.”

Karen Kedrowski, American Fulbright Scholar with the McGill Institute for the Study of Canada in 2010

“This June, I was invited back to give two presentations to the Grande Conference of the Quebecois Lactation Consultants Association (ACQ) in Laval, Quebec.

The first presentation was on how international human rights documents can be used to assert a positive right to breastfeed (on the part of the mothers) and to protect infants' interest in being breastfed, and the limits of such a right. Breastfeeding sits at the intersection of multiple rights-bearing entities and is fertile ground for legal tests relating to human rights.

The second presentation compared Canadian and US breastfeeding policies. In both countries, states or provinces have taken the lead in establishing breastfeeding policies. However, their approaches are very different. Canada has taken a public health approach, following the WHO recommendations, and focusing on earning "baby friendly" designations for hospitals and community health clinics. The US has taken a legal, rights-based approach, protecting mothers' rights to breastfeed in public, exemption from obscenity laws, and employment accommodations. Yet despite their very different approaches, breastfeeding rates in the US and Canada are not as different as one might expect. “

Jana Lee Morris, Canadian Youth Ambassador, Summer 2011 Alumna Travels to Romania with Tattered Tiaras to Volunteer with Trafficked Girls

“Romania: it is the forgotten country in Europe bordering Bulgaria, Serbia, Hungary and the Ukraine. This country, Romania is the one country that most people do not want to visit while backpacking Europe. The country that people question why one would ever visit it. Romania faces many hard times today and just like the country itself, the people and their struggles are also forgotten.

I, myself a nineteen year-old female, had the opportunity to travel to Romania this past May for two weeks. Prior to my departure I had a very difficult time gaining support from my family and my friends. Many questioned my decision and worried about my safety. My own family refused to watch the movie “Taken” until I had safely returned due to the fact that they were afraid the same would happen to me. Little did they know, that girls do not get kidnapped into human trafficking in this forgotten country, they get sold.



Travelling with an organization called Tattered Tiaras, an organization that focuses on women of all ages and does the same abroad, it was my duty along with the six other team members, to focus on all aspects of life for girls in Romania, including those who have been trafficked.

There is a small city in the countryside just outside of the capital, Bucharest, which has a rehabilitation center, called Reach out Romania, for girls who have been trafficked. A lady by the name of Iana runs Reach out Romania with her son Stephan. The center is set up very much like any other house in the area. The difference is that it is gated with electric barbed wire on the top. There are cameras that monitor every room and a security system that allows Organized

We spent our day with the girls and taught them how to make bracelets. Due to safety reasons this is the only photograph that we were allowed to take.

Crime to arrive only three minutes after its activation. This security system, while seeming over the top, is necessary, as pimps have broken in to steal their "property" away in the past.

The use of Organized Crime as opposed to the police may have been raised to question. In Romania, there are four sections of policing: Organized Crime, Criminal Investigations, Public Safety, and Administrative Police. Organized Crime happens to be the only section willing to work in the area of human trafficking. Unfortunately, all other policing sectors view the girls as prostitutes and use them as so.

Many times, Organized Crime will be called to a certain situation where there happens to be young girls in prostitution and, working alongside Reach out Romania, will bring them to the center. Other times, Iana has happened into a certain situation and will meet with the girls privately where they express their desire to escape the situation. Thus meaning, that there have been cases where Iana has had to steal girls out of their situation.

More often than not, the girls have not been kidnapped into their situation; they have been sold. The sad reality of this is that they have been sold by their mothers, fathers and boyfriends most of the time. At one point in time a girl was sold for four cigarettes by her mother. Men will date younger girls (minors) in order to be able to sell them for money: something that is prominent in the Roma (Gypsy) community.

At any given time, the center holds ten to fourteen girls. At one point in time, they were mostly over the age of eighteen. Today, seventy-five percent of them are under the age of eighteen due to the fact that the girls being trafficked are progressively becoming younger and younger. Girls will be purchased in Romania and sent out to surrounding countries. This makes it harder to track girls down and harder for them to escape. One girl that I had the opportunity to speak with had been taken to Turkey where she refused to enter a life of prostitution. She was drugged and beaten. She was threatened and in the end forced into a life of prostitution. At the age of twenty-three, this young woman ran away and was helped by nuns who brought her to Reach Out Romania. Today she is in school and is striving to get a college education.

Stories like this are not unusual for girls of all ages. Sadly, they are not uncommon for young men either. The day of our visit the center was picking up a twenty-year-old male. This young man, whom I had the opportunity to meet, was full of life and on the outside you would never be able to guess what he had been through. He was hired as a bar tender and upon arrival was drugged, beaten and forced to be a homosexual in the sex trade industry.

As sad as these stories are, Reach Out Romania provides help and hope for all of these sex slaves. They provide counseling, a family, education and life skills. The girls attend school, love each other, and have been making sheets for hotels. In fact the center is building a hotel to offer a place for the girls to work at after they leave and go out on their own. This is a hopeful opportunity to raise the success rate from eighty-six to one hundred.

Why do you care about Romania? Maybe you don't. Maybe it is still the far off forgotten, dangerous country to you, but it's one country out of many that traffic women, children and even men. Next time you think about Romania, try to think of it as a generation crying out for help, think of it as your daughter, sister, niece, nephew or even your grandkids crying out for help; the kids being trafficked right here in Canada. Remember, it is not just a far off notion. Human Trafficking is happening right here at home, maybe even to someone you know. Next time you think of Romania, think that you can make a difference. You can be like Iana, a woman who has saved the lives of over 400 girls. You can be the change."

"Please note that due to safety issues I am not able to include the specific name of the town or the names of any girls involved."

Toby D. Couture, Canadian Fulbright Scholar, 2008

"I was awarded a Canada-US Fulbright Scholarship in 2008-09 to undertake work in renewable energy in the US. Through the support (and eventual approval) of the Fulbright committee, I travelled from the east coast of Canada to Golden, Colorado, where I took up a research position as Energy and Financial Markets Analyst at the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL). Having just completed a Masters in renewable energy policy in Canada, this was an invaluable experience, and enabled me to share in, and contribute to, some of the incredible work taking place at one of the US' leading energy research labs.

As I settled into my position in Colorado, I began building on the previous work that I had been doing in Canada. In the process, I was given the opportunity to lead the Lab's work on what are called renewable energy "feed-in tariff" (FIT) policies, which was my area of expertise. FITs are now widely considered to be the most effective renewable energy policy worldwide, and are currently being used in over 80 jurisdictions worldwide.

(You're probably wondering, what's a feed-in tariff? For reference, FIT policies work by providing stable, long-term contracts to renewable energy producers to supply (i.e. feed-in) power to the grid, typically at a price that is based on the cost of generation. This allows anybody (private businesses, citizens, farmers, as well as investors) to invest in renewable energy projects, sell their electricity to the grid, and earn a return on their investment.)

The idea has even begun to catch on in the US, having been adopted in the state of Vermont, as well as the cities of Gainesville, FL, and more recently Los Angeles, among others.

I added a quick list of some of the reports we published during my time with the Lab, the first of which, which I am now told, is being used by governments such as Japan, India, Malaysia, and even Saudi Arabia as a policy guide to accelerate renewable energy deployment:

Couture, T. Cory, K. Kreycik, C. Williams, E. (2010). *Policymaker's Guide to Feed-In Tariff Design*. TP-6A2-44849. Golden, CO: National Renewable Energy Laboratory. <http://www.nrel.gov/docs/fy10osti/44849.pdf>

Couture, T.; Cory, K. (2009). State Clean Energy Policy Analysis (SCEPA) Project: *An Analysis of Renewable Energy Feed-in Tariffs in the United States*. NREL/TP-6A2-45551. Golden, CO: National Renewable Energy Laboratory. www.nrel.gov/docs/fy09osti/45551.pdf.

Couture, T. Kreycik, C. Cory, K. (2011). *Innovative Feed-In Tariff Designs that Limit Policy Costs*. NREL TP-6A20-50225. Golden, CO: National Renewable Energy Laboratory. www.nrel.gov/docs/fy11osti/50225.pdf

Couture, T., Kreycik, C, Cory, K., (2012). *Procurement Options for New Renewable Electricity Supply*, National Renewable Energy Laboratory, NREL. www.nrel.gov/docs/fy12osti/52983.pdf

After my time with NREL, I went on to do another Master's degree in London, at the LSE, and I'm now living in Berlin, working on renewable energy policy, and strategy."

News Release Regarding Stephen J. Farnsworth, Fulbright Scholar at McGill in Montreal in 2006-7 By Marty Morrison

Fredericksburg, Va. – Author, political analyst and professor Stephen Farnsworth will rejoin the faculty of University of Mary Washington in January to open the Center for Leadership and Media Studies on the Fredericksburg campus. He also will teach in the Department of Political Science and International Affairs.

The center will engage students in conducting research and political opinion surveys that study the role media plays in state and national politics, including the presidential election.

"So much of how we follow our government depends on what the media chooses to write or broadcast or post online," according to Farnsworth, who currently is associate professor of communications at George Mason University. "We will examine news content, conduct opinion surveys of citizens and evaluate how they view government officials, government policies and media sources."

Farnsworth, who taught at UMW for 13 years until 2008, expects the center to become operational soon after he arrives in January.

"We'll hit the ground running to look at the upcoming presidential campaign," Farnsworth said. "We plan to be in the thick of the campaign right away."

A major initiative of the center will be connecting current undergraduates with alumni who are in government or political science careers to boost student and alumni experiences.

"We want to maximize alumni involvement so they can share insights about their careers with the next generation of students," Farnsworth said.

An expert on media and politics, Farnsworth has conducted research on elections, the mass media, the presidency and public opinion in the United States. In addition to having his research appear in numerous scholarly journals, he is regularly quoted about political and communication issues in major media outlets.

He is the author of “Spinner in Chief: How Presidents Sell Their Policies and Themselves” and “Political Support in a Frustrated America.” He also co-authored “The Nightly News Nightmare: Television’s Coverage of U.S. Presidential Elections, 1988-2004” and “The Mediated Presidency: Television News and Presidential Governance.”

Farnsworth, who worked for 10 years as a newspaper journalist before becoming a professor, has lectured on the news media and elections, and he has led reporter-training seminars in India, the Philippines, Ukraine, Georgia, and Armenia through programs funded by the U.S. government. He also has assessed electoral conditions in Cambodia for the National Democratic Institute.

Farnsworth won three campus-wide teaching awards at UMW, including the Alumni Association Outstanding Young Faculty Member Award, the Mary W. Pinschmidt Teaching Award and the Richard Palmieri Outstanding Professor Award. In addition, he served as a Fulbright Research Chair at McGill University in Montreal during the 2006-07 academic year.

He received a doctorate and master’s degree in government from Georgetown University, after having received a bachelor’s degree in history from the University of Missouri and a bachelor’s degree in government from Dartmouth College.

RESOURCES

Access CO.NX

What is CO.NX? “IIP CO.NX is a global outreach team that works with the Bureau of International Information Programs at the U.S. Department of State. Our mission is to connect the world through interactive web chats featuring experts, opinion makers, U.S. government officials and community activists. All programs are free and provide a dynamic forum for open discussion on topics such as U.S. policy, society, values, and a range of other bilateral issues.” (CO.NX Youtube site)



IIP CO.NX-produced programs are now more accessible and shareable than ever. The recently-launched [CO.NX Portal](#) now includes on-demand video recordings of past programs dating back to June 20, 2011 in the [Media Archive](#) section. Each program has its own archive page and embedded video player that can be linked to directly. In addition, the multi-bitrate video player auto-detects and selects the optimal viewing quality for each viewer, adjusting to high or low bandwidth environments. Full CO.NX programs are also available on [YouTube](#) and for download on iTunes [Audio](#) and [Video](#) podcasts. (CO.NX)

Recent CO.NX Programs Include:

- “U.S. Elections: Campaign Finance”
- “Journalism’s Role in Civil Society”
- “Digital Safety in a Networked World”
- “Hope and Change through Street Art”

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 consulates 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. By the end of July, 2012, we are also launching a [new Embassy blog](#), where you can read more about the Embassy's news and events and communicate with us directly.

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.

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Alumni Links

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