



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE

INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE ALUMNI

alumni.state.gov

Alumni Newsletter

December 2013



Welcome to our new Public Affairs Officer

Judith Bryan assumed the position of Public Affairs Officer at the U.S. Embassy in Ottawa in August 2013. A career member of the Senior Foreign Service specialized in public diplomacy, she has worked in press relations and cultural affairs since 1990.

Before arriving to Canada, Judith served as Cultural Affairs Officer in Mexico City (2011-2013). Her previous assignments include Deputy Public Affairs Officer and Spokesperson at the U.S. Mission to the European Union (2008-2010); Information Officer (Press Attaché) at the U.S. Embassy in Mexico City (2005-2008); Deputy Press Attaché at the U.S. Embassy in Tokyo (2001-2005); Public Affairs Officer in Guadalajara, Mexico (1998-2001); Deputy Public Affairs Officer at the U.S. Interests Section in Havana (1996-98); Public Affairs Officer at the U.S. Consulate in Fukuoka, Japan (1993-96); and Assistant Cultural Affairs Officer in Tokyo, Japan (1991-93). A native of Texas, Judith holds a B.A. from Cornell College in Iowa, and a Maîtrise (M.A.) in international relations from the University of Paris I (Panthéon-Sorbonne) in Paris, France.



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- Eid-ul-Adha Dinner
- Upcoming Program Travel
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Welcome to our new Alumni Coordinator

Ariane Guy is your new Alumni Coordinator as of October 2013. Originally from Quebec City, she has been living for over 6 years in Ottawa, where she completed a Bachelor's in International Development and Globalization, and graduated in 2012 with a Master's in Public and International Affairs from the University of Ottawa. She worked at the House of Commons for 6 years, interned with a few non-governmental organizations, and was a 2012 summer volunteer in Haiti before coming to work for the U.S. Embassy. She is excited about this new challenge as your Alumni Coordinator and looks forward to meeting you and working with you! Please feel free to share your ideas and your experiences with her.



Save the Date: December 5th ANGRY BIRDS Webchat!

Love the world's most popular game Angry Birds? The creator Peter Vesterbacka, and National Geographic author Rhett Allain are coming to the Department of State just to chat with you about games and physics! <http://goo.gl/jhnLl4>

More information on Page 8

Join the **Canada-U.S. Exchange Alumni** LinkedIn Group

Professional Network | LinkedIn

Highlights from Parliamentary Interns: Washington DC Study Tour & Hosting Congressional Fellows

By Ariane Guy, Alumni Coordinator

The Canadian Parliamentary Intern Program (CPIP) is a post-graduate experience giving Canadian youth an opportunity to work closely with Members of Canadian Parliament for ten months - both up close on Parliament Hill and in comparison with other legislatures through study tours to Washington, London, Brussels, Quebec, Manitoba, Toronto and Nunavut. The Washington DC study tour is funded through a U.S. government grant and administered by the U.S. Embassy in Ottawa.

I sat down with 2012-2013 Parliamentary interns Sean Pierce, Iman Mohammed and Claire Boychuk to hear about their experiences both in Washington and receiving U.S. Congressional Fellows in Ottawa for a week.

The Washington study tour was a chance to learn about U.S. congressional politics with great insights from various political actors. Some of the interesting meetings interns attended included: a panel of experts on gun violence; a meeting with representatives from the National Rifle Association; a meeting with the Democratic Budget Group; and discussions on "Obamacare", or the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

Back in Ottawa, Canadian interns wanted to make sure their American counterparts would have an amazing week as well. Iman mentioned the incredible greeting the American Fellows received from Canadian Ministers, Senators, and various heads of agencies in Ottawa. One of the great takeaways from Iman's experience exchanging with the Congressional Fellows was realizing how much she and other interns actually knew about the Canadian Parliamentary system, and being able to share that with them.

The Parliamentary Internship Program is definitely an experience of a lifetime. As Claire describes it: "I see my experience in D.C. as a crucial education on U.S. governance." Sean emphasized the depth of the relationship between Canada and the United States. In his view it is one that is deeply connected and happens on all levels of governance.

As we're gearing up to welcome a new U.S. Ambassador to Canada, we'd love for you, our Alumni, to welcome him as well. Do you have a few minutes to spare and are you interested in connecting with the Ambassador? Send us a short video of yourself and tell us:

What exchange program did you take part in, and when?

What was the highlight of your program?

What would you tell the new Ambassador is the most powerful way to connect with Canadians?

Do you have any other ideas and suggestions for him?

Grab your phone, tablet or computer and reach out to the U.S. Ambassador!

Additional details:

File format: mov, MP4 or Quicktime (your portable devices should all produce video in either one of these formats.)

Length: 1-3 minutes

Deadline: December 15th 2013

Send to: GuyA@State.gov with **Video Clip for Ambassador** in the subject line.

**CONNECT
WITH THE
AMBASSADOR**

Canadian and American Fulbright Scholars and Students, 2013-2014

For 2013-2014, over 60 Canadian and American Fulbright Scholars or Students are travelling to universities all across Canada and the United States. Fulbrighters work on a wide variety of topics, ranging from advertising, indigenous issues, energy, security, arts, human rights, agriculture, and many more.

For more information on current Fulbrighters and their areas of work and interest, visit <http://www.fulbright.ca/about-us.html>. If you wish to connect with a current American Fulbright Scholar or Student in Canada, contact Ariane Guy at GuyA@state.gov.

KEEP IN TOUCH

Do you have a U.S. degree?

Do you have an upcoming Alumni event, or interesting stories and experiences to share? We're always interested in what you are up to!

We want your short articles to publish in the next edition of the newsletter. Deadline: December 15th 2013.

Email Ariane Guy at
GuyA@state.gov

Did you know?

The Institute of International Education released Open Doors 2013 data, and Canadian numbers are up! The number of Canadian students in the U.S. increased by 2% for the 2012-2013 school year.

<http://www.iie.org/Research-and-Publications/Open-Doors>

16 Things You Should Do At The Start of Every Work Day

The first few hours of the work day can have a significant effect on your level of productivity over the following eight-so it's important you have a morning routine that sets you up for success.

www.forbes.com

Fulbright Starts Efforts to Help Alumni Keep Global Ties

Colleen R. O'Neal, assistant professor of psychology at the University of Maryland, studied refugee students in Malaysia on a Fulbright in 2010. "You're introduced to new topics that you never dreamed of," she says.

www.chronicle.com

News and Events

Alumni Community

Stephen J. Farnsworth, 2006-2007 Canada-US Fulbright Scholar

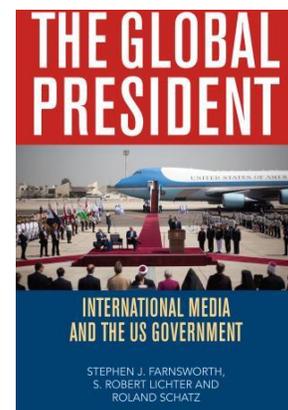
Fulbright alum Stephen J. Farnsworth is Professor of Political Science and International Affairs and Director of the Center for Leadership and Media Studies at the University of Mary Washington. He is **co-author of a new book**, "The Global President: International Media and the U.S. Government" (Stephen J. Farnsworth, S. Robert Lichter and Roland Schatz, coauthors), published by Rowman & Littlefield in August 2013. His interest in international news coverage of the US started during 2006-7 when he was a Fulbright Scholar at McGill University in Montreal.

While at McGill, he collaborated with colleagues on two scholarly journal articles, "The International Two-Step Flow in Foreign News: Canadian and U.S. Television News Coverage of U.S. Affairs," which was published in the International Journal of Press/Politics, and "Event-Driven Environmental News in the US and Canada," which was published in Electronic Media and Politics.

More info on the book can be found on his website:

<http://stephenfarnsworth.net/category/media/>

You can find additional information about him at: stephenfarnsworth.net



Public Affairs Officer Judith Bryan attended the City of Ottawa's Eid-ul-Adha dinner on October 22, joining International Visitor Leadership Program Alumni Erica Bregman, Mohamed Jebara and Naima Sidow.

News and Events

Halifax

State Alumni Group Planned for Atlantic Canada

Over the last several months, six International Visitor Leadership Program alumni in Nova Scotia have been working toward the creation of a group for State Alumni in the Atlantic Provinces.

In a planning session in June, the team discussed a vision for the alumni group, potential activities, and ways in which the group might give back to the U.S. State Department exchange program and the local community. Following the meeting, a wiki was developed to provide a collaborative workspace and an archive for documents (e.g., meetings minutes, reference materials).

The team's next steps are to finalize the alumni group's organizational structure and develop a brand. Once that work has been completed, the group will be officially launched and promoted to other State alumni in the region.

Québec City



Announcing the arrival of the new Consul General in Québec City:

Hale VanKoughnett joined the U.S. State Department as a Foreign Service Officer in 1991. He has had overseas assignments in Ciudad Juarez, Mexico; Paris, France; Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic; Brussels, Belgium; Seoul, Republic of Korea; and Manila, Philippines. In 2012-13 he was a student at the Naval War College in Newport, Rhode Island, pursuing a master's degree in strategic studies. He began his assignment as Consul General in Quebec City in October 2013. He speaks Spanish and French. Mr. VanKoughnett is an avid runner and enjoys playing guitar and piano.

Quebec City International Visitor Leadership Program 2005 Alumnus **Marc-André Thivierge** has recently been named Director of US Affairs at the Quebec Ministry of International Affairs, Francophonie, and External Trade. An attorney, Marc-André also holds a Master's degree in International Relations from Laval University, in Quebec City, where he is now home based.



Montreal

Alumni Networking Reception, September 10 2013



The U.S. Consulate General in Montreal teamed up with the Washington Center for Internships and Academic Seminars and the McGill North American Studies program to host "Paying it Forward," an alumni networking reception. The reception was held in honor of alumni from the Washington Center and the State Department's academic and professional exchange programs.

"Paying it Forward" gave alumni the opportunity to meet one another, discuss Canada-U.S. relations and most importantly, build personal and professional connections. Alumni were encouraged to stay in contact with each other to ensure strong ties among professionals who have shared similar experiences in exchange programs to the United States. In addition, alumni from both groups signed up to join Consulate staff in a lecture series for 2014 on current issues. The goal of this program is to offer a U.S. and Canadian perspective on current events to Montreal university students.

Roundtable Discussion on Social Media for Alumni, June 7 2013

The U.S. Consulate General in Montreal welcomed State Department exchange program alumni for a social media roundtable and cocktail held at the Grande Bibliothèque. Bruno Guglielminetti, Quebec's most renowned social media and communications expert, was invited to speak on the use of social media as a professional tool. He emphasized that social media platforms can have a significant impact on individuals' or companies' networking, and using these tools on a professional level can help build a better communications strategy in various fields of activities. The enthusiastic alumni audience, which included State Department alumni and social media specialists, participated in a question and answer session for further advice and had the opportunity to continue the discussion and network with one another following Mr. Guglielminetti's presentation.



Toronto

U.S. Consulate General of Toronto Strengthens Ties with Alumni



Public Affairs Officer Judith Bryan, with two Alumni: Peter Van Loan, Leader of the Government in the House of Commons, and Gary Pieters.

The U.S. Consulate General Toronto held a reception for Canada-U.S. alumni on September 19, 2013 in partnership with York University. Held at Glendon College, alumni had an opportunity to network, build ties, and share experiences of their respective programs. At the reception, Toronto Consul General Jim Dickmeyer and Embassy Ottawa Public Affairs Officer Judith Bryan



Left to right: Consul General Jim Dickmeyer, Alumnus Gary Pieters, Public Affairs Officer Scott Walker

recognized the contributions that alumni have made to their communities, and stressed the value of maintaining strong relations among themselves and with the United States.

For the full web story, please see:

<http://toronto.usconsulate.gov/news-events/consulate-news-and-events/2013-news-and-events/alumni-reception-glendon.html>

Images: http://www.flickr.com/photos/us_mission_canada/9902406763/in/photostream/

Vancouver

Andrew Pape-Salmon, an alumnus of a 2012 IVLP on Energy Security, Energy Efficiency and Green Growth and Senior Energy Specialist at RDH Building Engineering contracted to the City of Vancouver, was the genesis behind an Alumni grant to support a two-day symposium on municipal policies to promote energy efficiency and emission reductions for existing buildings, including energy reporting or "benchmarking." Representatives from local governments and utilities in New York, Seattle, San Francisco, Austin and Portland joined counterparts from BC's Lower Mainland for a two-day seminar, hosted by the City of Vancouver, to present their experience in developing and implementing energy benchmarking policies and programs, including the best practices and challenges. The meeting provided perspectives on the political and legal aspects of introducing such a policy, as well as the operational details involved in program design and implementation. It also addressed the strategic role of benchmarking as a key climate action strategy, including stakeholder engagement and advocacy, and the details involved in implementing such a policy. Participants remarked that it was the first such gathering they attended, and was hugely helpful in developing cross-border networks and information sharing as cities and utilities on both sides of the border tackle these important issues.



Upcoming International Visitors Leadership Program Travel (IVLP)

Entrepreneurship and Innovation – December 2-20, 2013
Five Canadian participants

This program will introduce participants to services and organizations that are available to them throughout Canada and the United States to help them build their businesses and find the resources and partnerships they need to expand their businesses and strengthen their communities.

Higher Education in the US - January 21 – February 7, 2014
Six Canadian participants

This program will facilitate discussions on topics of mutual concern between educators in the U.S. and Canada. Topics will include distance learning/virtual education; continuing education; partnerships with the private sector; programs to meet the needs of students with disabilities; the role of the university in the community; campus life/alumni relations (particularly how well US institutions are at cultivating and engaging alumni for development/donations); and the role of research.

Canada and the US: Partners in Economic Growth - March 24 – April 11
Four Canadian participants

This program will focus on existing and potential future areas of U.S.-Canada cooperation in producing for and exporting to the rest of the world, with an eye to how together the U.S. and Canada can keep our edge in an increasingly competitive world market.

Grants

See information about upcoming an upcoming grant opportunity for alumni in our January 2014 issue!

Stay in Touch with Alumni Around the World

Tweet about the International Exchange
Alumni #exchangealumni

Follow us on Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/InternationalExchangeAlumni>

Search your fellow alumni by topic,
country and more. Discover a wide
range of resources!

<https://alumni.state.gov>

Feeling disconnected?

(Re) Connect with your regional Public Affairs staff!

They would love to hear from you.

Find contact information at the end of this newsletter.

Reference and Resources

Are you a Canadian who has studied in the United States? If so, we would love to hear from you! EducationUSA Canada is a program that helps Canadians study in the United States. We speak to Canadian students, parents and counselors about U.S. higher education, and we would welcome your involvement in our programs.

We attend [several education events](#) in cities across Canada. These events are opportunities to meet with prospective students and share information about U.S. colleges and universities. Would *you* be interested in attending an education event near you and speaking with Canadian students about your experience in the U.S.? Canadian students would be excited to hear your story!

You can also share your story online. We welcome short articles for our [EducationUSA blog](#) and video interviews for our [EducationUSA YouTube Channel](#). If you are interested in writing a piece or appearing for a video interview, please contact us today!

Contact us at educationusacanada@state.gov and visit us online at <http://canada.usembassy.gov/educationusacanada.html>. We look forward to hearing from you!



Free access to online reference databases at alumni.state.gov

Make your US Exchange work for you! As an alumnus of a State Department sponsored exchange program you have free access to online reference databases including EBSCOhost, Gale Cengage Learning, and ProQuest.

Over 20,000 online newspapers and magazines are at your fingertips!...and then there's the \$33 billion worth of grant opportunities...All you need to do is register at [State Alumni!](#) alumni.state.gov



U.S. Embassy's Media Office provides a number of resources for public policy information from or about the United States. We manage the Mission's public websites and online presence, where you can find continually updated news and texts on issues of interest to the U.S. and Canada, on the Ambassador, the Embassy and all of our consulates across Canada, as well as on the work and activities of the U.S. Mission.

Bookmark us at <http://canada.usembassy.gov> or for breaking news and updates, visit our social media sites: like us on [Facebook](#), follow us on [Twitter](#), view our photos on [FlickrR](#), watch our videos on [Youtube](#) or download one of our informational [podcasts](#) from iTunes.

You can learn even more through our [Link2US services](#), which include the [Embassy blog](#), a monthly newsletter and subject-based email newsletters called "E-Alerts." Subscriptions are free and are a great way to keep informed of new texts and research reports from the government and from reputable think tanks and NGOs in your areas of interest.

If you have any questions, send us an email at ottawareference@state.gov. We look forward to hearing from you!



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You can now join us on LinkedIn!

Canada-U.S. Exchange Alumni is now a group on LinkedIn. Join the group and invite your fellow alumni. Start discussions on current issues or special interests, connect with other State Department Alumni and network! [World's Largest Professional Network | LinkedIn](#)

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Love the world's most popular game Angry Birds? The creator Peter Vesterbacka, and National Geographic author Rhett Allain are coming to the Department of State just to chat with you about games and physics! <http://goo.gl/jhnL4>

Join them for a web chat (Angry Birds and the Physics of Games) with #ExchangeAlumni on December 5 at 6:30 am EST/11:30 UTC. Have questions about Angry Birds? The role of science in games? STEM? Post your questions on our #ExchangeAlumni Facebook page <http://goo.gl/Am3xNi> Want to host a viewing party for this event? Post your viewing party photos to the #ExchangeAlumni Facebook page with your name, exchange program title, and date of exchange, for a personal shout out during the webchat!

See you soon Angry Birds fans!

