

## Alumni Op-Ed: Introduction to the Journey from “Insight-Out”



Workshop with Youth Exchange and Study (YES) Alumni

By Mahdi Qasqas, International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP) Alumnus

If we want to see real change on global issues, then localized knowledge should never be underestimated; nor should the indigenous agents of change. I began my amazing and eventful summer with two goals: build relationships and explore the opportunities and needs of other agents of change in Germany, Saudi Arabia, Palestine, and Jordan. I was fortunate to have U.S. Department of State officials in Canada set up most of the meetings I took part in.

The goal of building international relationships amongst other IVLP participants and beneficiaries of the U.S. Department of State's international projects was certainly achieved. After presenting on best practices in preventing criminal radicalization at an international conference in Germany, I continued my journey into Saudi Arabia to meet fellow IVLP and YES alumni. Meeting with these individuals who are clearly agents of change – or as I like to call them 'authentic actors' – was inspiring. It reminded me of the amazing work that can be done when you put a few authentic actors together in a room.

Next up was meeting a group of more than 20 young and enthusiastic YES Alumni in the West Bank where I delivered a presentation on becoming transformational leaders in their communities. A more thorough workshop on transformational leadership was then given to a local university with about 45 diverse students, faculty members, and staff.

I am pleased to say that many of the meetings I had have been followed up with action plans, potential future projects, and partnerships. I believe that IVLP Alumni across the world can harness a great deal of social capital to enact real and lasting change with authentic and local transformational leaders at the helm. I have thought long and hard about what to call this trip and then it finally hit me, “The Journey from Insight Out.” As a result, I am excited to work with other IVLP alumni and local authentic actors on 'Project Insight Out' with one objective being to continue to train authentic actors in culturally responsive transformational leadership. This has been a great and long introduction to this journey; I am more passionate than ever to write this book together.

I remain your co-author in the journey.

Mahdi Qasqas

\*\*\*

*Mahdi Qasqas participated in the International Visitor Leadership Program on Promoting Moderate Voices, in 2011.*



### In this issue:

Consul General Welcome Reception in Halifax

Montreal alumni highlights

Maker Faire Event in Ottawa

Fulbright Canada Awards for Students and Scholars

### More reads:

EducationUSA Canada Blog:

[EducationUSA Student Spotlight: Stephanie Maris](#)

U.S. Department of State:

[Remarks to Canadian Youth Ambassadors, by Heather Higginbottom, Deputy Secretary of State for Management and Resources](#)

### Upcoming IVLP program:

February 8-26: Anti-Radicalization and Combatting Violent Extremism for Community Organizations

March 7-25 Anti-Radicalization and Combatting Violent Extremism for Law Enforcement

### Atlas Corps Fellowship Opportunity:

Seeking Civil Society Leaders for the Emerging Global Leaders Initiative. Apply now!

## What's Happening in Your Alumni Community?

### Halifax

#### [Welcome Reception in Halifax](#)

Atlantic Canadian Alumni were well represented at a reception on September 28<sup>th</sup> to welcome Consul General Steve Giegerich to Halifax. Along with getting to meet the new Consul General, the alumni were pleased to chat with Ambassador Heyman and to meet Kay Mayfield, Minister Counselor for Public Affairs from the U.S. Embassy in Ottawa.



From Left to right: Gary Logan (alumnus), Kelli Wooshue (alumna), Marilla Stephenson (alumna), Natasha Jackson (alumna), Kay Mayfield (Minister Counselor for Public Affairs), Nancy Phillips (alumna) and Johnny McPherson (alumnus).

### Montreal



#### [Fulbright Alumna Antonia Maioni Appointed Associate Vice-Principal, Research and International Relations, at McGill University](#)

By U.S. Consulate Montreal Public Affairs Advisor Annick Landreville

Fulbright alumna Antonia Maioni (2000, Harvard) was recently appointed Associate Vice-Principal, Research and International Relations, at McGill University. Her mandate will be to support the overall mission of advancing research excellence at the prestigious institution, with a particular emphasis on the social sciences and humanities. Maioni is also a Professor in the Department of Political Science and in the Institute for Health and Social Policy at McGill. She has published extensively in public policy and Canadian and Quebec comparative politics. She is also a frequent media commentator on Canadian and Quebec politics. Read McGill's announcement [here](#).

#### [Exchange Program Alumni Networking Cocktail](#)

The Montreal-area U.S. Department of State sponsored exchange program alumni had the opportunity to gather for a networking cocktail held at la Cinémathèque Québécoise in August. It was an opportunity for them to hear from fellow alumni who completed exchanges in the past year, as well as individuals U.S. Consulate Montreal has nominated for exchanges in the coming year.



IVLP alumna Stephanie Jecrois with Youth Ambassador alumna Tanya Chen

#### [Arctic Yearbook 2015](#)

By IVLP Alumnus Joël Plouffe, Managing Editor of the Arctic Yearbook

The Arctic Yearbook 2015 is online as of October 16th! AY2015 focuses on "Governance & Governing," with a comprehensive collection of peer-reviewed articles under the sections Local, Sub-national and National Governance; Arctic Regional Governance; & International & Global Governance. AY2015 includes 19 scholarly papers, 16 expert commentaries, and seven briefing notes from key Arctic decision-makers, stakeholders and actors on key issues facing the region. AY2015's preface is contributed by Hon. Fran Ulmer, Special Advisor on Arctic and Science Policy to the U.S. Secretary of State.

Check out the issue here: <http://www.arcticyearbook.com/>

## Ottawa

### Follow-up from the “Kids Can Code” Workshop for Youth

With help from the U.S. Embassy's Public Affairs Grants Program, 2009 IVLP alumna Erica Bregman organized a coding workshop for youth from the Ottawa region which brought together one-hundred youth, parents and educators to learn about free beginners' coding apps for kids. The U.S. Embassy is proud to support youth engagement through interactive and educational programs such as Kids Can Code.

Following this event, the Britannia Woods Community House and Jewish Family Services launched the Britannia Woods Maker Space camp from August 11-14, 2015.

Please see below an invitation to another event that celebrates innovation and creativity!



## MAKER-FAIRE 2015

### SUNDAY, NOV 8. LANDSDOWNE



YOU'RE INVITED TO OTTAWA'S BIGGEST MAKER PLAYGROUND!  
IT IS IN YOUR POWER TO BRING YOUR MOST SUCCESSFUL IDEAS TO LIFE

- ◆ R2D2 ROBOTS    ◆ DRONES    ◆ 3D PRINTERS    ◆ SOUND PRODUCTION
- ◆ WEARABLE TECH    ◆ VR GLASSES    ◆ UNDER WATER VEHICLES

**\*SCHOOL BUS AVAILABLE**  
DEPARTS 10:00 AM RETURNS 2:00 PM  
@ 115 RITCHIE STREET  
TO PURCHASE YOUR TICKETS  
KIDS (UNDER 18): FREE  
ADULTS: \$10 (SUBSIDY AVAILABLE)

\*TRANSPORTATION: CHILDREN UNDER 15 ARE  
REQUIRED TO BE  
ACCOMPANIED BY A GUARDIAN

[WWW.MAKERFAIREOTTAWA.COM](http://WWW.MAKERFAIREOTTAWA.COM)



RESERVATIONS  
MELISSA ANGANDEH 613-820-0853  
ERICA BRGMAN 613-722-2225

## Winnipeg

### Winnipeg Super Alumnus: Denys Volkov

By Brad Kirbyson, Economic & Political Affairs Specialist,  
U.S. Consulate Winnipeg

In November of 2013 students came out on the streets of Kyiv to protest the President's decision not to sign a comprehensive agreement with the European Union. They were beaten by police in one of the most brazen cases of police brutality Europe saw for a generation. Ukrainian communities around the world organized rallies to condemn the actions of the Ukrainian government and to bring world attention to the situation in Ukraine. Denys Volkov was among the first community members in Winnipeg to organize rallies calling on the Canadian government to support Ukrainian protesters. Since November of 2013, Denys has organized and spoken at a half dozen pro-Ukraine rallies. Denys' energy and leadership has propelled him to be a leading voice on the situation in Ukraine not only in Manitoba, but across Canada.



Denys speaking at Day of Remembrance and Reconciliation Event, May 2015

Denys regularly organizes and participates in different fundraisers to collect funds to assist injured soldiers and civilians in Ukraine as the result of the Russian invasion.

He is a member of the Ukrainian-Canadian Congress

(Manitoba Provincial Chapter) "Euromaidan" committee, which consist of volunteers and members of the Ukrainian community who identify and fund projects to assist Ukraine. One of the most successful initiatives of this committee was direct financial assistance to Ukrainian people injured in protests as well as to the purchase and delivery of large quantities of medical supplies. One of the most memorable and well-attended public events organized by the U.S. Consulate in Winnipeg in 2014 was an initiative Denys proposed to the former U.S. Consul, Tim Cipullo. Mr. Cipullo made a powerful presentation to the Ukrainian community in Manitoba on the U.S. response to the Russian invasion of Ukraine in 2014. Denys introduced the Consul and moderated the Q&A session at the event.

Denys traveled to Ukraine as an election observer with the Canadian Election Observation Mission funded by the Government of Canada in May of 2014 and as Director of Communications for a similar mission in October of 2014. Denys met with Consul Chris Gunning regarding the situation in Ukraine and remains one of the most active members of the local Ukrainian community in Manitoba. In May of 2015 Denys organized a Day of Remembrance and Reconciliation event to commemorate victims of World War Two which included members from different ethnic communities. U.S. Consul Chris Gunning provided written remarks for the event. The Winnipeg Free Press often publishes op-ed pieces and letters to the editor written by Denys on the situation in Ukraine, and Denys is now the go-to guy in Winnipeg to discuss the situation in Ukraine.

Denys also serves as Vice President of the Manitoba Soccer Association and a board member of both the 'Folklorama' festival and the Ukrainian Cultural and Education Centre (Oseredok). He is a founding member of the "Euromaidan Winnipeg" committee which works on projects to raise awareness of the situation in Ukraine in Winnipeg and support projects in Ukraine.

Where does he find the time?

Thanks, Denys!

### U.S. Embassy Public Affairs Grant: Hosting Judith Heumann

By Allen Mankewich, Disability Advocacy IVLP Alumnus, 2015

The Manitoba League of Persons with Disabilities received a grant from the U.S. Embassy to support our 2015 United Nations International Day of Persons with Disabilities. For this year's event, we are bringing in Judith Heumann to Winnipeg in December. Ms. Heumann is the Special Advisor for International Disability Rights for the United States Department of State. The focus of Ms. Heumann's visit is a public forum on December 9<sup>th</sup>, when 300 representatives from Manitoba organizations of persons with disabilities, government and business are anticipated at a presentation on lessons learned from 25 years of the Americans with Disabilities Act. Ms. Heumann will also participate in the December 10<sup>th</sup> celebrations for United Nations International Human Rights Day at the Canadian Museum for Human Rights, where Ms. Heumann's disability activism during the 1970's is highlighted. In addition to these formal events, a number of meetings and social events are planned to introduce Ms. Heumann to Manitoba's political and community leaders. Ms. Heumann's visit is a direct outcome of the involvement of Yutta Fricke, Acting Executive Director of the Manitoba Disabilities Issues Office, and Allen Mankewich, Co-Chair of the Manitoba League of Persons with Disabilities in the U.S. Department of State's International Visitor Leadership Program on Disability Advocacy in June 2015.

## EGLI-Atlas Corps Fellowship: Seeking Applicants!

Are you interested in the nonprofit/NGO/social sector and looking for an experience in the United States?

The U.S. Department of State is pleased to announce a special opportunity for emerging civil society leaders to participate in a 9-18 month professional fellowship in the United States. All Fellows will be placed at a leading social change organization in the United States. Individuals in the nonprofit/NGO sectors with two or more years of experience, a college degree and English proficiency are encouraged to apply. Atlas Corps has supported over 350 emerging leaders from more than 72 different countries and is seeking candidates who will apply as soon as possible for their next class of Fellows. To apply and to find out more information, please visit <http://apply.atlascorps.org>.

Eligibility criteria:

- two or more years of relevant experience in the nonprofit/NGO/social sector
- Bachelor's degree or equivalent
- English proficiency (oral, writing, reading)
- 35 years or younger
- Apply to serve in a country other than where you are from (U.S. citizens are not eligible for the U.S. Fellowship – check out our Fellowship in Colombia!)
- Commitment to return to your home country after the 6-18 month fellowship

Emerging Global Leaders Initiative (EGLI)-  
Atlas Corps Fellowship

“Being an Atlas Corps Fellow gives you the chance to widen your perspective and become a more complete agent of change. I have never felt so lucky and so challenged in my life at the same time.”

– Adriana Pineiro (Class 18, Panama, Host: WakaWaka)

Priority Deadline: November 1, 2015

**Apply Today!!**

Apply online at [bit.ly/AtlasCorps21](http://bit.ly/AtlasCorps21)

## Fulbright Community

**Fulbright Awards**  
Awards for Canadian scholars and students  
Applications due November 15, 2015  
[www.fulbright.ca](http://www.fulbright.ca)

**Killam Fellowships**  
Awards for Canadian and American undergraduate students  
Applications due February 1, 2016  
[www.killamfellowships.com](http://www.killamfellowships.com)

### [Fulbright Canada Celebrates 25 Years](#)

Virginia Clarke, U.S. Embassy Ottawa

Fulbright Canada celebrated its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary with a gala on September 18<sup>th</sup>, held at the Museum of Nature in Ottawa. The Keynote speaker was Chief Shawn A-in-chut Atleo, the W.A. MacDonald Distinguished Fellow and Adjunct Professor at the Ontario Institute for studies in Education, and Vancouver Island University Shqui qwal for Indigenous Dialogue. Chief Atleo spoke about the importance of expanding educational opportunities for indigenous youth and other underrepresented populations. Ambassador Bruce Heyman made remarks on behalf of the U.S. Government, while Dr. Peter Boehm, Senior Associate Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, spoke on behalf of the Canadian Government. Fulbright lies at the heart of educational exchange between the United States and Canada. The gala was also an opportunity for 2015-2016 Fulbright Scholars and Students and Killam Program Students to meet in Ottawa over the orientation weekend. Mission Canada wishes Fulbright Canada a wonderful 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary! Look up photos from the event on Fulbright Canada's [Flickr](#).

## [Announcement of 2015 Fulbright Canada-Palix Foundation Program and Panel Discussion at the University of Calgary with the Distinguished Visiting Research Chairs in Brain Science, and Child and Family Health and Wellness](#)

On October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2015 Fulbright Canada and the Palix Foundation's Alberta Family Wellness Initiative announced their partnership and presented the 2015 Fulbright Canada-Palix Foundation Distinguished Visiting Research Chairs in Brain Science, and Child and Family Health and Wellness at an event at the University of Calgary. President Elizabeth Cannon of the University of Calgary; Mr. Thomas Palaia, Consul General of the United States for Alberta, Saskatchewan and the Northwest Territories; Dr. Michelle Gagnon, President of the Palix Foundation; and Dr. Michael Hawes, CEO of Fulbright Canada offered remarks. Following the announcement of the new program, the three Distinguished Chairs presented their research at a public panel discussion and discussed how their time in Alberta, working with the [University of Alberta](#), the [University of Calgary](#) and the [University of Lethbridge](#), allowed them to explore new directions in their work.

The program's focus is on brain science and child and family wellness. "We are delighted to be collaborating with Fulbright Canada and Alberta's research universities on this innovative distinguished visiting research chair initiative," said Nancy Mannix, Chair of the Palix Foundation. "This represents an unprecedented opportunity to build capacity to engage in research with impact focused on preventing and mitigating toxic stress in the lives of children and families. We could not be more pleased with the first set of scholars that will come to Alberta in the fall. We look forward to working with them to mobilize their extremely timely and important work."

Working with Alberta's three world-class research-intensive universities – the [University of Alberta](#), the [University of Calgary](#), and the [University of Lethbridge](#) – extraordinary American scholars and top-tier applied researchers will use this program as an exchange focusing on collaborative research in Alberta. The aim is to support research and build relationships that will directly impact on health and wellness outcomes in Alberta and beyond. The research will be based on current brain science about the effects of toxic stress on children, families, and lifelong health and wellness outcomes, in particular those related to mental health and addiction.

According to Dr. Michael Hawes, CEO at Fulbright Canada, "This program represents an extraordinary opportunity to advance our thinking and grow our understanding in an area which has the potential to positively impact so many people and so many families. I am so impressed by the leadership shown by the Palix Foundation and the commitment made by Alberta's research universities. This is truly a case where we can genuinely do some good."

We are extremely proud to announce the recipients of the Fulbright Canada – Palix Foundation Distinguished Research Chairs for 2015-2016.



**W. Warren H. Binford, J.D.**, is Associate Professor of Law and Director of the Clinical Law Program at the Willamette University College of Law. She will conduct research entitled "The Impact of Digitization on Child Trauma" at the **University of Calgary**. Professor Binford will study the effects of child pornography on the victim when his or her sex abuse images are distributed on the Internet and will continue to be consumed indefinitely, creating an experience of "continuing victimization" significantly affecting victim recovery. The goal of this research will be to support the advancement of brain research that can be used to support the development of laws, policies, and programs that will end, or, at least impede, the continuing victimization of children in the digital age, while analyzing Canada's current legal framework.



**Nicolette Teufel-Shone, PhD**, is Professor and Chair of the Family and Child Health Section of the Health Promotion Sciences Division and an Affiliated Faculty Member of the Departments of Anthropology and Nutritional Sciences at the University of Arizona. She will conduct research entitled "Fostering Strategies to Build Indigenous Youth Resilience" at the **University of Alberta**. The objective of her project is to recognize and leverage community assets to foster indigenous youth resilience and health.



**Diana Dow-Edwards, PhD**, is Professor of Physiology and Pharmacology at the State University of New York, Downstate Medical Center. She will conduct research entitled "Stress and the Cannabinoid System in Adolescents" at the **University of Lethbridge**. Her research will examine the effects of marijuana administered during adolescence to male and female rats, which have undergone early stress on cognitive and emotional behaviors.

### Fulbright in the News:

Warren Binford, Professor at Willamette University's College of Law in Oregon, is currently Visiting Chair in Child and Family Health and Wellness through a partnership between Fulbright Canada and the Palix Foundation. Read about Binford's work here:

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/utoday/issue/2015-09-30/research-shows-watching-child-pornography-not-victimless-crime>

<http://calgaryherald.com/news/crime/u-of-c-researcher-investigates-ongoing-trauma-to-child-sex-abuse-victims-caused-by-videos-and-images-of-abuse-traded-online>

### Publications by Fulbright Scholars

The University of Illinois published the first volume of Fulbright alumnus Roger Daniels' biography of Franklin D. Roosevelt on October 15, 2015. Daniel' second volume will be published in early 2016.

Roger Daniels. Franklin D. Roosevelt: The Road to the New Deal. Urbana, 2015.

### Share your Fulbright Experience!

*"I was a US-Canada Fulbright Fellow back in 1998-1999 at the University of Toronto. It was my first experience in bioinformatics and it set the course for my career, becoming a professor at Harvard Medical School. I am currently in the UK as a Fulbright Scholar in Glasgow. I have come back full circle to the Fulbright program. Thanks so much for [Fulbright's] support and help in my career. I have met so many interesting people and learned about new perspectives along the way!"* **Gil Alterovitz, 1998-1999 Fulbright Alumnus, University of Toronto**

## Contact Information

### U.S. Mission Public Affairs Staff

| U.S. Mission Public Affairs Staff |                    |                        |                         |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|
| Canada-Wide Alumni Coordinator    | Ariane Guy         | 613-688-5440           | guyA@state.gov          |
| Halifax                           | Marcia Seitz-Ehler | 902-429-2480, ext 2000 | seitz-ehlerMR@state.gov |
| Montreal                          | Alyson McPhee      | 514-908-3657           | mcpheeA@state.gov       |
| Quebec City                       | Sophie Maciagowski | 418-692-2095, ext 2000 | maciagowskiS@state.gov  |
| Toronto                           | Claudia Valladolid | 416-595-1721           | valladolidCL2@state.gov |
| Winnipeg                          | Brad Kirbyson      | 204-940-1801           | kirbysonBR@state.gov    |
| Calgary                           | Casey Bohn         | 403-444-5221           | bohnCX@state.gov        |
| Vancouver                         | Corina Vlad        | 604-642-6657           | vladct@state.gov        |
| Fulbright Alumni Relations        | Rebecca Dixon      | 613-688-5517           | alumni@fulbright.ca     |