



# Alumni News



## January 2013, Volume 5, Issue 3

EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA IN CANADA

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**Canada – U.S. Alumni News Highlights:** Canadian alumni representing all of the seven consular regions in Canada gather at the U.S. Embassy in Ottawa in November to participate in an Alumni Networking Symposium; Announcing Alumni Small Grant Program

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## Canadian alumni gather in Ottawa to move toward National Alumni Network

On November 26, 2012, 33 alumni representing all of the seven consular regions in Canada travelled to the U.S. Embassy in Ottawa to participate in the first Alumni Symposium on Canada-U.S. Relations.

Alumni have consistently expressed interest in developing a National Alumni Network with regional chapters, and the one-day symposium provided an opportunity for preliminary discussion in developing a framework. Alumni outlined priorities for their specific regions, as well as for Canada as a whole, and strategies to engage and connect with alumni. There was no shortage of ideas: lecture series, a host-an-alumna/alumnae program, and use of social media were among the many discussed.



Alumni from Halifax discuss the next steps for an Atlantic Canada Advisory Council



Members of the Québec/Nunavut Alumni Advisory Council participate in a Digital Video Conference with members of the U.S. Consulate in Québec City and Montreal.

program in 2009, and has been an active and enthusiastic member of the alumni community since his return to Halifax. He has been a frequent participant in alumni workshops both in Ottawa and Halifax, and along with other alumni is working toward the formation of an Atlantic Canada Alumni Network. Congratulations!

Keep your ears open for news on alumni networking events in your area, and be sure to register on the [website](#) to keep up to date on the latest alumni news.

Alumni reconnected with former exchange colleagues, made new connections from across the country, and had meaningful discussions on the development of alumni in Canada-U.S. relations. Senior officers from the U.S. Embassy briefed alumni on various key political, economic, defense, and agricultural issues, and alumni engaged in digital video conferences with their respective consulates to discuss next steps for future alumni work.

Special recognition was given to Johnny McPherson, who was presented with the Alumni of the Year Award. Mr. McPherson participated in the IVLP exchange



Johnny McPherson, Halifax, receives the Alumni of the Year Award from James Nealon, Deputy Chief of Mission



Alumni take a break to refuel and network



Alumni listen to briefings from senior officers at the U.S. Embassy, Ottawa

## Alumni Network Symposium Survey Feedback

A significant take-away was a re-confirmation of genuine desire on behalf of the United States to develop mutual understanding between the citizens of foreign countries and to engage in ongoing, constructive relationships. **Johnny McPherson, IVLP, 2009, Atlantic**

A useful experience and was blown away with the diverse talent pool that exists within the Alumni community. **Gary Logan, IVLP, 2010, Atlantic**

Believes the group assembled has an incredible potential for impact on a local/regional and national level. **Kelli Woo Shue, IVLP, 2011, Atlantic**

Found the Embassy briefings of both personal and professional interest. **Letia Obed, IVLP, 2006, Quebec/Nunavut**

Found that the event was very successful in facilitating discussion, identifying themes of bilateral interest, and exploring opportunities for future collaboration. **Teresa Trevino, IVLP, 2002, Ottawa**

Found that the Symposium gave her a clearer picture of the make-up of State Alumni in Canada, and was refreshing and inspiring to meet with other Canadians from diverse sectors and backgrounds. **Rhea Laube, Parliamentary Internship Program, 2008-2009, Ottawa**

Found the Symposium to be a useful way to make initial contact with the Ontario group which had not had much prior interaction. **Hartley Springman, IVLP, 2012, Ontario**

Found the briefings from the Senior Embassy officers particularly useful and insightful, and would like to see a focus on building cross-border initiatives. **Marie Delorme, APEC Women's Entrepreneurship Summit, 2010, Alberta/Saskatchewan/NWT**

The BC/Yukon Advisory Council has a particular interest in using the alumni network to allow for the increase of business and personal connections throughout BC/Yukon, across Canada, and globally. Their action plan includes a regional launch reception in February/March 2013, increased electronic communications, networking receptions and speaker events three to four times per year, and an alumni ambassador program to visitors to the region. Alumni have a specific interest in topics of clean energy, trade cooperation, climate change, and the Free Trade anniversary and foresee potential partnerships with UVIC, the BC government and Muslim organizations. **The BC/Yukon Advisory Council**

Atlantic Advisory Council members all greatly enjoyed the Symposium as well as the follow-up meeting in Halifax where they were able to interact with the CG and discuss their individual program experiences. Next steps include setting up a DVC with the Alumni office in Washington and Ottawa to discuss grant opportunities and possible structures for an alumni network. Particular interests for this group are energy/environment and education. **Atlantic Advisory Council**

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## THE NEW INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE ALUMNI WEBSITE

We are pleased to announce the new International Exchange Alumni website! The new website, which is accessible at the same URL ([www.alumni.state.gov](http://www.alumni.state.gov)) responds to alumni requests for a more user-friendly, faster, interactive, and easier-to-access website. It will contain many of alumni favourite features such as Alumni News (now "Alumni Updates"), events, the



grants database, job and volunteer opportunities, and the online library. It will also include several new features such as an alumni project collaboration space and the ability for alumni to more easily interact with their peers on social media.

It is important to note that the Communities from State Alumni will not transition to the new International Exchange Alumni site – however there will be many new ways to communicate with the Canadian alumni community! These include the ability to sign up for RSS feeds, share events and photos from alumni activities and link to social media sites like Facebook, Flickr, and LinkedIn. Be sure to check out the new site!

Sign up now or update your user profile information if you have already signed at <https://alumni.state.gov>.

Join us in celebrating State Alumni's growing family on Facebook ([www.facebook.com/statealumni](http://www.facebook.com/statealumni)) and Twitter (#StateAlumni).

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## **INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE ALUMNI WELCOME ITS 100,000<sup>th</sup> MEMBER!**

In November, International Exchange Alumni welcomed its 100,000<sup>th</sup> member! Vardha Khalil of Pakistan, a Hubert Humphrey Fellow studying journalism at the University of Maryland.

She joins you and other distinguished leaders around the world who have used their exchange experience to bring about change in their communities.

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## **2012-13 Community Leadership Project Grant Awards**

The Community Leadership and Fulbright Canada Program (CLP), co-sponsored by the U.S. Embassy in Canada, provides an opportunity for alumni to take initiative and organize a project that has a positive impact on a Canadian community. This year, we are proud to be supporting another five outstanding projects aimed at engaging local communities and addressing community needs.



The first project is led by Victor Armony (Canadian Fulbright Visiting Chair, 2011-12), who has partnered with Jean-François Coté (Canadian Fulbright Visiting Chair, 2011-12), and Jill Strauss (American Fulbright Visiting Chair, 2012-13), who will mount an art exhibition in Montreal, Québec entitled “All Our Stories Begin and End with...”. The art will be created by five visual artists from Concordia University who are affiliates at the Centre for Oral History and Digital Storytelling (COHDS). COHDS has been collecting life histories of refugees and immigrants to Montreal for more than five years; these artists will respond visually to the stories they have collected in order to engage viewers with issues of gender, displacement and immigration, memory, voice and silences.

Second project is led by Bernard Duhaime (Canadian Fulbright Visiting Chair, 2011-12), and his team - consisting of multiple Fulbright Canada alumni - including three American Fulbright Students from the 2012-13 cohort: Karl Barber, Anjali Cera, and Anna January, and alumnae Amélie Quesnel-Vallée (Canadian Fulbright Student, 1999-2000) - are working on a project entitled “Breaking Down Barriers: Accessibility Issues for Persons With Physical Disabilities in Montreal.” The project aims to improve the quality of life of physically handicapped persons, and raise awareness about issues surrounding persons with disabilities.

Third project is led by Sandy Ng (Canadian Fulbright NEXUS Scholar, 2011-12) is collaborating with both Sonia Lawrence (Canadian Fulbright Student, 2000-01), and Angela Loder (Canadian Fulbright Student,

2007-08) on a project that takes place in Toronto, ON. "Voices of the city" is a community project that will highlight the ways that seniors and youth interact with urban environments in order to raise awareness of the challenges faced by seniors. Through "photovoice", seniors and youth will photograph infrastructure that they like and dislike, and that causes them frustrations or inconveniences in daily living. The exhibited photographs will act as a critical re-examination of what constitutes good design choices and what design changes can be made in the future to increase the urban experience for all.

Fourth project is led by Tobias Nussbaum (Canadian Fulbright Mid-Career, 2009-10), and collaborators Elizabeth Muggah (Canadian Fulbright Student, 2009-10), and Deborah Chatsis (Canadian Fulbright Mid-Career, 2006-07) will implement their project entitled "Building a Main Street Gateway – A Neighborhood Project to Revitalize our Main Street and Build Community Engagement." The project aims to revitalize an area that has seen sharp decline and atrophy in Ottawa.

Fifth project is lead by Caroline Tait (Canadian Fulbright Student, 1995-96), will address the problem of gangs and gang violence in Saskatoon, SK with collaborators Charles S. Coffey (Fulbright Canada past Board of Directors) and Bettina Schneider (American Fulbright Student, 2006-07). Tait aims to help make the community partner STR8 UP become financially independent so it can continue its gang prevention campaigns, and gang intervention programs. By soliciting the advice and knowledge of a similar American company that has secured partnerships with organizations to employ over 200 former gang members - Homeboy Industries - Caroline plans to implement various conferences, host an event in Saskatoon with both companies and the community, then collaborate with SR8T Up to develop a business plan.

For more information on the Community Leadership Program, please visit [www.Fulbright.ca](http://www.Fulbright.ca)

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### **Fulbright Canada Alumni Internship Program**



The Fulbright Canada Alumni Internship Program, co-sponsored by the U.S. Embassy in Ottawa, offers a unique opportunity for Fulbright Canada alumni, and alumni from all USG sponsored programs to develop professional skills, network with prominent university figures and government officials, and develop a deeper understanding of the Canada-U.S. bilateral relationship. Fulbright Canada is currently looking for candidates for two internship positions: a summer internship which begins mid-May and ends August 31<sup>st</sup>, and a 9-month internship which runs from September 1<sup>st</sup> to April 31<sup>st</sup>. Successful applicants will work at the Fulbright Canada office in Ottawa, Canada's capital, for the defined period of the award. Interns will be able to fully immerse themselves in all that Ottawa has to offer: from meeting with other government agency interns, to tours of various Ottawa landmarks, interning in Canada's capital offers a truly unique experience. Fulbright Canada will be accepting applications shortly, please check the website for details.

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### **EducationUSA Canada – Helpings Canadians Study in the United States**

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 dozens of students and counselors each month about U.S higher education, and we would welcome your involvement in our programs.



Each month we attend or host education events in cities across Canada. These are opportunities to meet with prospective students and share information about U.S. colleges and universities. Would you be interested in attending an upcoming education event near you and speaking with Canadian students about your experience in the U.S.? We know that Canadian students would be very interested in 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](mailto:educationusacanada@state.gov) and visit us online at <http://canada.usembassy.gov/educationusacanada.html>. We look forward to hearing from you!

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## **ALUMNI MESSAGES**

### **Stefanie Bowles, Canada, Fulbright Scholar, 2009-2010**

On December 11 and 12 2012, the North American Roundtable on Sustainable Production and Consumption (NARSCAP) in cooperation with the United Nations Environment Programme – Regional Office for North America (UNEP RONA) held a workshop on advancing Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) in Washington DC. The workshop brought together representatives from various U.S. federal government Departments, environmental non-governmental organizations, academics, and included several participants from Canada.

The goal of the workshop was to begin identifying areas of collaboration and opportunities that arose from the adoption of the [10-Year Framework of Programmes \(10YFP\) on SCP](#) at the June 2012 Rio+20 Earth Summit. As well, the workshop aimed to have a discussion on the direction that the governance structure of the 10YFP should take and ascertain what the next steps should be.

While it was clear that the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) would be the interim reporting body and that a 10-member board would manage the 10YFP, there was less clarity as to the details of the 10YFP. Some key questions surrounded the expected focal groups that will form under the 10YFP and how they would relate to the governing board. Participants were also unsure who would/could be considered for membership on the various bodies that will be formed under the 10YFP. There is no formal government engagement in this process by Canada at this time although clear recommendations for engagement on life-cycle assessment can be found in the concluding section of [Canada's Opportunity: Life-Cycle Approaches for Sustainable Development](#).

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

In January 2013, a University of Toronto street banner in which my image is featured, captioned: Boundless Progress Gary Pieters '93 '96 '02 Educator and Voice of Change was unveiled around the University of Toronto campus, and one of the banners will be located on Spadina Ave near Harbord St.

One newspaper from the Toronto Caribbean diaspora, Share Newspaper has done a story in its Jan. 3 paper and online editions. The link to the story captioned "UARR President Featured in U of T Fundraising Initiative" is available online at <http://sharenews.com/uarr-president-featured-in-u-of-t-fundraising-initiative/>

**Christopher Maule, Canada, Fulbright Scholar, 1994-1995**

I am now retired and write a blog at [cmaule.wordpress.com](http://cmaule.wordpress.com) dealing with a variety of economic related topics.

**Jeff Colgan, Canada, Fulbright Scholar, 2000-2001**

I am a Fulbright alumnus now living in Washington, DC. My new book, *Petro-Aggression: When Oil Causes War* (Cambridge University Press) is forthcoming in early February. It seeks to understand why some but not all oil-exporting 'petrostates' act aggressively, and offers new insight into why oil politics plays a central role in global peace and conflict. My book can be read at the following sites:

<http://www.amazon.com/Petro-Aggression-When-Oil-Causes-War/dp/1107654971>  
<http://www.cambridge.org/aus/catalogue/catalogue.asp?isbn=9781107654976>

**Kathryn C. Lavelle, United States, Fulbright Scholar, 2009**

I published *Money and Banks in the American Political System* with Cambridge University Press in January of 2013. I commenced this project while a Fulbright Chair in World Affairs at the University of Toronto in 2010. My time at the Munk Centre allowed me to make initial presentations and discussions of the book to a Canadian audience that offered a unique perspective of the financial system in the US from outside of it. As a part of the research for the book, I have collaborated with Tony Porter, a Canadian colleague at McMaster University, on a chapter in another volume comparing the success of the Canadian financial system in navigating the 2008 financial crisis, with the difficulties encountered in the American system. This publication, "Banks, Banking, Regulatory Mechanisms, and the Public Interest: What's So Different?" will appear in a new edition of David Thomas and David's *The United States and Canada: Differences that count*.

**Judith Bernhard, Canada, Fulbright Scholar, 2002-2003**

Immigration is an important topic that continues to appear in news reports across Western countries. Though few reports talk about what adjusting and integrating into a new country means for immigrant families. The traditional strategy employed by social workers, teachers and other social service practitioners is decidedly Euro-centric and treats immigrants as if they have little cultural or community-based means of integrating of their own. Based on work I conducted during a Canada-US Fulbright award I have a new book coming out on immigration and family centered practice, its title is "Stand Together or Fall Apart: Professionals Working with Immigrant Families".

In the book I argue that immigrants have deep cultural, familial and communal resources to aid their integration and that these resources need to be tapped by social workers, teachers, counselors, settlement workers and youth workers alike. Providing several alternative, integrated, research-based programs that combine cultural resources, traditions and family dynamics, Stand Together or Fall Apart will help practitioners to better understand the struggles of immigrants and thus be better able to assist them as they adjust to life in a new country,

I'd love to hear what you think of the book.

<http://bit.ly/StandTogetherOrFallApart>

Free teaching resources for professors: [http://bit.ly/STFA\\_TeacherResources](http://bit.ly/STFA_TeacherResources)

**United States Embassy Ottawa  
FY 2013 Alumni Small Grants Program**

The United States Embassy in Ottawa is pleased to announce the FY 2013 Alumni Small Grants Program. Alumni of U.S. government-sponsored exchange programs are invited to apply. To be eligible for this program, applicants must be registered on the International Exchange 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 USD based upon available resources.

**Deadline:** The U.S. Embassy Ottawa will be accepting grant applications from now until **April 12, 2013**. Grant recipients will be notified in early May. Pending availability of funds, we will continue to accept grant applications on a *rolling basis* until September 1, 2013 or until funds are exhausted.

Grant proposals must:

1. Demonstrate how the project will use the exchange experience to benefit others in Canada;
2. Explain what audiences the project will target in Canada and why; and
3. Specify how the project will be evaluated by project participants.

Applicants are invited to submit a two-three page proposal in English which includes: 1) text summary of the proposed project and outcomes, including target audiences; 2) the proposed budget that includes cost-sharing/in-kind contributions; 3) alumni/community/etc. partnership information; 4) project evaluation standards and procedures. We will confirm receipt of all proposals. Following a review of the proposal, applicants will be notified if their project meets the requirements of this solicitation.

**Please note the following grant guidelines.** If the proposal is awarded funding, the primary grant contact person will be required to sign a grant agreement which indicates he or she has read and understands [U.S. Department of State Standard Terms and Conditions for Overseas Awards](#) (includes non-allowable expenses). Note that U.S. Embassy funds may not normally be used to cover salaries, food, and beverages, although those items may be cost-shared by other entities. Budgets may include funding to bring speakers/experts to the location where the activity will be performed, including travel, lodging and per diem costs. You can find information about maximum allowable costs at [http://aoprals.state.gov/web920/per\\_diem.asp](http://aoprals.state.gov/web920/per_diem.asp).

**Project Budget**

Please complete a facsimile of the budget format below. All applications should include some cost-sharing by a partner such as donated space for an event (with an estimated rental value of the space). Please describe each budget line item in detail.

Item Description	Amount Requested from Alumni Small Grant Program (in U.S. dollars)	Amount Cost-shared (in U.S. dollars)



## **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](mailto: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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## **CONTACT INFORMATION & LINKS**

### *Alumni Contacts*

Cultural Affairs Associate, Sandra Weedmark [weedmarks1@state.gov](mailto:weedmarks1@state.gov)

Information Resource Center, U.S. Embassy [ottawareference@state.gov](mailto:ottawareference@state.gov)

Fulbright Alumni Relations, Kaitlyn Innes, 613-688-5517, [kinnes@fulbright.ca](mailto:kinnes@fulbright.ca).

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### *Alumni Links*

International Exchange Alumni <https://alumni.state.gov>

US Embassy <http://canada.usembassy.gov>

Canada-U.S. Fulbright Program <http://www.fulbright.ca/>

U.S. State Department <http://www.state.gov/>

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