

U.S. MISSION TO CANADA

ALUMNI NEWSLETTER - April 2015

IVLP Alumnae hold Montreal's First Technovation Challenge

Two International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP) alumnae organized Montreal's first Technovation Challenge, a program to empower girls to get involved in high tech by developing their own mobile apps. Stephanie Jecrois and Amina Gerba travelled to the



U.S. in 2013 on the "Women in Entrepreneurship" IVLP and met with counterparts, including Anar Simpson, a high tech entrepreneur and Global Ambassador for the Technovation Challenge, who then inspired them to launch the program in their own community. Through a grant from Consulate General Montreal, Stephanie and Amina put together the event and invite Sarah Clatterback, Director of Web Development and User Experience at LinkedIn, to mentor the participants.

The Technovation Challenge brought together 50 girls between the ages of 10-18 to participate in a day-long kick-off workshop to demystify high tech, encourage enthusiasm for science and technology, and inspire girls to enter the tech sector. Stephanie and Amina saw the value of bringing such a program to their hometown of Montreal, with its large student population and expanding high tech entrepreneurship scene. "The Technovation Challenge is a way for girls to realize the impact they can have in society by creating solutions to issues in their communities," Stephanie says. "In so doing, they will evolve from mere tech users into agents for change. Our ambition is to contribute to entrepreneurial growth in the IT sector in Montreal."

Over the next 12 weeks, the girls with the help of their mentors will develop prototype and business plans. An international jury will select the best projects and the winners will travel to San Francisco to pitch their concepts to the Silicon Valley startup community and compete for the \$10,000 grand prize.

[Follow the Technovation Challenge on Facebook.](#)



From left to right: Alumna Amina Gerba, Sarah Clatterback from LinkedIn, Public Affairs Officer Brian Ferinden, Global Ambassador for the Technovation Challenge Anar Simpson, Public Affairs Program Assisant Alyson McPhee and alumna Stephanie Jecrois. (Photo Credit U.S.Consulate Montreal)



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More reads:

EducationUSA Canada Blog:

[YAPplications roll in, and Education USA prepares to roll out to the U.S. College Expo](#)

[Celebrating 75 years of Exchange Programs – Letter from Evan Ryan, Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs](#)

Upcoming IVLP programs:

April 13-May 1: Transportation Safety

June 8-June 17: Disability Advocacy

September 14-October 2: Food Security and Developments in Agriculture

Call for proposals: Embassy Grants Program

Do you have a program idea that promotes the U.S.-Canada relationship? Apply to the Public Affairs Grants Program!

The U.S. Embassy Ottawa Public Affairs' Grants Program is accepting proposals on a rolling basis until August 15, 2015, for projects and activities that promote U.S.-Canada bilateral relations in our priority areas.

For eligibility information and details on how to apply, visit our website Canada.usembassy.gov or click [here](#).

Alumni Community

Greetings from 2013 Youth Ambassador Dang-Dang Gruben, From Inuvik, NWT



Dang-Dang performing drum dancing (Photo courtesy of: Dang-Dang Gruben)

"I didn't always live in Inuvik. For my first 9 years, I lived in a community called Tuktoyuktuk, by the Arctic Ocean. Then I moved to Inuvik for a better education. Growing up, I noticed that I was the only one out of my friends that took time off school in the spring to do our annual hunt. I would leave and then come back two weeks later. We would go get our geese and as I got older my dad started taking me bear hunting. In 2013, I went to the United States with the Youth Ambassador Program, one of the greatest programs I've been on so far! I've met some great people and made some great friends!"

Read about the Youth Ambassadors Program with Canada [here](#).



Inuvik Church (Photo courtesy of Dang-Dang Gruben)

Montreal

Alumnus Joël Plouffe is back this spring at Western Washington University, where he is teaching a course titled *Québec, Northern and International Relations*.

Ottawa

February 5, 2015 - From Slave Ships to Asylum Courts

With the support of the U.S. Embassy Grants Program, Fulbright alumna Amelia Brown organized the [lecture](#) *From Slave Ships to Asylum Courts: Understanding African Human Trafficking Networks Past and Present*. Academic expert and anti-human trafficking activist Benjamin Lawrance and Ottawa-based writer Kathy Cook spoke on slavery and its legacy.

February 26, 2015 - Building Connections: Connecting for Client Success

Presented by Labour Market Ottawa, "Building Connections" was a panel event gathering community workers from Ottawa to speak about integrating and connecting job seekers to employers. International Visitor alumna Erica Bregman, working with Jewish Family Services, was invited as a panelist alongside representatives from the Youth Service Bureau, the Ottawa Network for Education, and others.

Erica Bregman recently took on a new role as the incoming President of the [Ottawa McGill Alumni Association](#). Contact the association: ottawa/alumni@mcgill.ca

March 24, 2015 - CELADA Event

Fulbright Alumnus Roy Culpeper presented at CELADA's latest event, *Equitable Alternatives and Local Solutions to Land Grabs in Africa*, held at the University of Ottawa. CELADA is the Coalition for Equitable Land Acquisitions and Development in Africa. Panelists investigated and debated alternatives and solutions to inequitable "land grabs" in the African foreign and domestic context. For more information on CELADA, email info@celada.ca or visit www.celada.ca.

April 1, 2015 - We Day in Ottawa

International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP) alumna Caitlin Tolley spoke to a crowd of 20,000 young students and activists at WE Day in Ottawa.

Caitlin participated in the IVLP on First Nations Governance in January-February 2015. She is Co-Chair (Female) of the Aboriginal Peoples' Commission, an Algonquin leader from the community of Kitigan-Zibi, and currently a JD candidate at the University of Ottawa.

Ambassador Heyman and his wife Vicki also gave opening remarks at We Day. Take a look [here!](#)

May 26, 2015 – Cycling Cleric

The Cordova Centre will host its annual Cycling Cleric Initiative on Tuesday May 26th, 2015. For the second year, Imam Mohamad Jebara, who participated in an IVLP exchange in 2011, will ride across part of Canada to encourage Canadians to stay physically active and healthy. This year's theme is "Gifting other with the gift of life". In partnership with Trillium Gift of Life Network, the Cycling Cleric initiative is looking to raise awareness about organ and tissue donation. Imam Mohamad Jebara will depart Ottawa and stop in seven cities and towns along the way before ending his trip in Toronto.

Visit the website: <http://cyclingcleric.ca/>

Toronto

2013 Youth Ambassador alumna receives multiple awards

On Friday February 27, 2015, Mélanie-Rose Frappier received the Lieutenant Governor's Ontario Heritage Award at a ceremony at Queen's Park in Toronto. Nominated by her school, École secondaire du Sacré Coeur, Mélanie-Rose accepted the Heritage Award in the Youth Achievement category. The initiative honors outstanding citizens. Read the story [here](#).

Mélanie-Rose was selected as a Top Global Leader 2015, a Three Dot Dash project, and headed to New York for a week in March. Three Dot Dash is a global initiative of the We Are Family Foundation to recognize and support the efforts of global teen leaders around the world.



The Honourable Elizabeth Dowdeswell, Lieutenant Governor of Ontario, with Mélanie-Rose Frappier and Marie Topalovichm, Board Member, Ontario Heritage Trust. Photo Credit: Tessa Buchan, courtesy of the Ontario Heritage Trust

April 3 – Gary Pieters leaves UARR

IVLP alumnus Gary Pieters is leaving the Urban Alliance on Race Relations (UARR), where he was president for the past 3 years. Read the news [here](#).

April 22 – Toronto Alumni Networking Event

U.S. Consulate Toronto is hosting an alumni networking event in celebration of Earth Day. The event is from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at Cambria Gallery, 91 Parliament Street, Toronto. If you are a U.S. government exchange alumni living in the Toronto area, look for the invitation in your inbox or contact Claudia Valladolid at ValladolidCL2@state.gov for the details. The Toronto Consulate Public Affairs staff and the Canada-wide Alumni Coordinator hope to see you there!

Fulbright Community

Earth Day: Arctic Panel and Art Exhibition

Watch video:



Join us on Earth Day 2015 to Celebrate the Launch of the Fulbright Arctic Initiative, and Fulbright Canada's 25th Anniversary

Arctic Panel Discussions:

April 22, 2015, Ottawa City Hall, Jean Piggot Place, 110 Laurier Ave West, Ottawa, ON
Free and open to the public.

Panel 1: 8:30 – 12:00 "The Unravelling of the Arctic"

Hosted by The Canadian Climate Forum, Arctic 21, and WWF

World renowned experts will address the most current Arctic research, weaving perspectives rooted in human interest with impacts on ecosystems, local and Indigenous peoples, and the economy – all of which have global implications. Experts will discuss more specifically "Natural Sciences: Glaciers, Permafrost and Sea Ice" and "Ecosystems and Impacts of a Changing Climate".

For full program, speakers, and contact information

Panel 2: 12:30 – 14:00 "Challenges of Conducting Research in the Arctic"

Panel and lunch hosted by Fulbright Canada

This panel will consider the physical, fiscal, and intellectual challenges of conducting research in the Arctic. It will present an overview of the Fulbright Arctic Initiative, a new program to promote innovative, interdisciplinary research, and to create a network of researchers across the Arctic Council region. Dr. Michael K. Hawes, CEO Fulbright Canada, will give welcoming remarks, Dr. Michael Sfraga and Dr. Ross A. Virginia, co-lead scholars of the Fulbright Arctic Initiative, will discuss these topics based on their personal research challenges, and Tracy Coates, JD, will discuss the importance of traditional and local knowledge in Arctic research.

RSVP: to rdixon@fulbright.ca with subject line "Arctic Panel" to participate in the lunch, and panel discussion.

For more information

"Under the Same Stars (Ulluriat ataanittuinnait)"
Photographic Exhibition
Watch Video



Arctic Art Exhibition April 22 - 24, 2015

Hosted by Fulbright Canada with the support of the Fulbright Canada-RBC Eco-Leadership Program
350 Albert St., Constitution Square Lobby, Ottawa, ON

Under the Same Stars (Ulluriat ataanittuinnait) is an exhibit of original photography by Fulbright Canada grantee [Acacia Johnson](#), who will be present for the duration of the exhibition. The central theme of the show demonstrates that shared experiences in the Arctic, across all cultures and communities, tie us together. Acacia's work depicts the reality of everyday life during the long winter months on Baffin Island.

[For more information on the art exhibition](#)

Be a part of the discussion

 [@FulbrightCanada](#) [@CdnClimateForum](#)
[#EarthDay](#) [#FulbrightArctic](#)
[#UnderTheSameStars](#)

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



Make your U.S. exchange work for you! As an alumnus of a Department of State sponsored exchange program, you have free access to online reference databases including EBSCOhost, Gale Cengage Learning, and ProQuest. More than 20,000 online newspapers and magazines are at your fingertips! There's also the \$33 billion worth of grant opportunities. All you need to do is register at [State Alumni!](http://StateAlumni!) Alumni.state.gov

Exchange Alumni is now on Twitter

Are you on Twitter? Be sure to tweet a warm welcome to [International Exchange Alumni!](https://twitter.com/ExchangeAlumni) They've launched their own Twitter account (@ExchangeAlumni) and are excited to connect with you. Follow them here <http://goo.gl/SlexJF> to learn more about exchange programs, read alumni updates, and find the latest #MOOC and grant opportunities.



Contact Information

U.S. Mission Public Affairs Staff

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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	403-444-5203	bohnCX@state.gov
Vancouver	Corina Vlad	604-642-6657	vladct@state.gov
Fulbright Alumni Relations	Michèle Phillips	613-688-5517	mphillips@fulbright.ca



Embassy of the United States
Ottawa, Canada

