

U.S. MISSION TO CANADA

## ALUMNI NEWSLETTER - January 2015

# Alumni Engagement Innovation Fund Presentation in Montreal

On January 22<sup>nd</sup>, U.S. Consulate Montreal organized a working meeting with Montreal Alumni to present and discuss the 2015 Alumni Engagement Innovation Fund (AEIF). Montreal's Consul General Nina Fite greeted alumni at her residence before giving the floor to Montreal Public Affairs Officer Brian Ferinden and Alumni Coordinator Ariane Guy who spoke about the grant opportunities and answered questions on the specifics of the Innovation Fund. The event ended with alumni sharing their project ideas and areas of interest in order to find ways to collaborate. It was a great networking opportunity for all who attended.



**The AEIF:** The Alumni Engagement Innovation Fund (AEIF) was created in 2011 to support alumni initiatives that promote shared values and innovative solutions to global challenges. The competition provides small grants up to \$25,000 to teams of past and current participants of U.S. government-sponsored exchange programs to carry out public service projects. To participate, alumni must be members of the International Exchange Alumni (IEA) global online community by February 24, 2015 and form teams of at least five IEA community members. Proposed projects must embody one of the 2015 AEIF themes. The Alumni Engagement Innovation Fund competition runs from February 3 to February 24, 2015.

Interested in finding out more about the AEIF? Register on <https://alumni.state.gov/> or contact Ariane Guy at [guya@state.gov](mailto:guya@state.gov).



### In this issue:

- Montreal Alumnus receives grant for Dance Therapy Workshop
- Youth Ambassadors: Alumna Melanie-Rose Frappier goes to Jamaica with her non-profit organization; Yasmine Alkadri and Alison Lee talk about their community projects
- Imam Mohamad Jebara in the news, on Community Outreach
- Fulbright program updates

### More reads:

**15 Points to Focus on in 2015, by Folker Wrage for Forbes**

**Thinking Globally, Connecting Locally, U.S. Department of State Official Blog** : This year we

celebrate the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first U.S. exchange programs.

### Latest IVLP programs:

January 12-30: Solving Environmental Challenges in the Resource Industry

January 26-February 13: First Nations Governance

# ALUMNI ENGAGEMENT INNOVATION FUND 2015

## Montreal

On November 17, nearly 1,500 political, economic, social, and community leaders gathered in Montreal for a conference entitled “Je vois Montréal” (I See Montreal). The initiative—developed by the president of BMO Financial Group, Jacques Ménard, and the Board of Trade of Metropolitan Montreal—seeks to revitalize the city and restart economic growth. Change makers from across the city pitched over 180 projects to companies and potential financial backers on subjects ranging from art to education to urban renewal, with a focus on developing projects that do not require government funding. Montreal mayor, Denis Coderre, announced the creation of a Bureau headed by former Parti Québécois Minister Diane De Courcy to oversee initiatives and ensure the momentum to revitalize the city continues. Several media opinion pieces argued that Je vois Montréal is precisely the type of private sector initiative that the city needs to recover from years of economic stagnation without committing much public money.

Christian Sénéchal, IVLP alumnus, recently participated in a grassroots initiative to revitalize Montreal called Je Vois Montreal and his project—the National Centre for Dance Therapy- was chosen as one of the successful projects.



Christian Senechal, directeur du Centre national de danse-thérapie, and US Consulate Intern Amy Eloise Mailloux (Photo Credit : Montreal Consulate)

## Dance Therapy Workshop With Suzi Tortora



Practitioners and dance therapy students learn new techniques from Suzi Tortora (Photo Credit: Consulate Montreal)

The Montreal Consulate partnered with Les Grand Ballets Canadiens and their National Center for Dance Therapy to offer a hands-on dance and movement therapy workshop with American board certified dance movement therapist Dr. Suzi Tortora. Dance therapy is the psychotherapeutic use of movement to teach patients to manage pain and other symptoms, improve self-esteem and body image, develop effective communication skills, and create new options for coping with mental health, rehabilitation, and other medical issues. The newly opened National Centre for Dance Therapy is the first project of its kind to be conceived and implemented by a cultural company, and the only one in the world offering three interconnected services: dance and movement therapy, clinical research, and Canada’s first graduate-level dance therapy training program. The Centre is directed by Department of State Alumnus Christian Sénéchal who recently traveled to the U.S. to share best practices with the American Dance Therapy Association.

During her visit to Montreal, Dr. Tortora shared her expertise in the field of infancy mental health and development with approximately 20 dance therapists and dance therapy students. The participants were able to learn more about the techniques she uses with patients in both her private practice and at hospitals in the U.S. Christian Sénéchal and Dr. Tortora also met with local health practitioners to discuss opportunities for implementation of similar techniques in Canada.

## Daniel Green devient chef adjoint du Parti vert du Canada

Daniel Green, environnementaliste et ancien du programme IVLP en 1993 sur les efforts de protection environnementale aux É-U, remplace George Laraque à titre de chef adjoint du Parti vert du Canada. Green sera chargé d’aider le parti à percer au Québec. M. Green a dirigé la Société pour Vaincre la Pollution (SVP) pendant une vingtaine d’années et travail dans le secteur de la contamination des eaux et des sols depuis plus de trente ans.

## The Arctic Yearbook

Alumnus Joël Plouffe has been a managing editor of the Arctic Yearbook, along with Dr Heather Exner Pirot and Editor Dr Lassi Heininen, since it was co-founded in 2011. The 2015 Arctic Yearbook will be launched this fall. The Arctic Yearbook is the outcome of the Northern Research Forum and the University of the Arctic Thematic Network (TN) on Geopolitics and Security. The TN also organizes the annual Calotte Academy. It is intended to be the preeminent repository of critical analysis on the Arctic region, with a mandate to inform observers about the state of Arctic geopolitics and security. It is an international and interdisciplinary peer-reviewed publication, published online at <http://www.arcticyearbook.com> to ensure wide distribution and accessibility to a variety of stakeholders and observers.

## Calgary

### 2014 Youth Ambassador Alumna shares her exchange experience

Alison Lee is a Grade 12 student from Kate Andrews High School in Coaldale and participated in the 2014 Youth Ambassadors with Canada Program. In an article published in the Lethbridge Herald, by Dawn Sugimoto, Alison talks about her exchange experience. Take a few minutes to read about her travels to New York and Washington, D.C.; spending time with a homestay family in Plattsburgh, visiting the White House and forming tight bonds with her fellow students.

<http://lethbridgeherald.com/news/local-news/2014/11/14/an-experience-of-a-lifetime/>

### Calgary Alumna brings U.S. Specialists to "Save our Kids Forum" with U.S. Public Affairs Small Grant



Loretta Avent, Calgary Police Officer, Brittany Avent, Calgary Mayor Naheed Nenshi, and Leann-Hackman Carty (Photo Credit: Calgary Consulate)

Leann-Hackman Carty is an IVLP alumna based in Calgary, Alberta who participated in a 2001 program on municipal economic development and international trade. Since her program, Leann has become the CEO of Economic Developers of Alberta (EDA) and President of Blue Heart Consulting. Additionally, she has continued a very productive relationship with the Consulate. Recently, Leann utilized the consulate's small grants program to promote the work of EDA and created a disaster relief project with Mickie Valente, a FEMA Reservist. The scope of this project provided support to small businesses in municipalities and First Nation Reserves who were affected by the 2013 June floods, which devastated many parts of southern Alberta.

In her capacity as President of Blue Heart Consulting, Leann worked with the Consulate to bring a team of specialists from Arizona to participate in the "Save Our Kids" Forum in October 2014. The goal of this event was to shed light on the use of prescription and designer drugs among youth, especially Aboriginal youth. Promoted as part of Aboriginal Addictions Awareness Week, the forum included Loretta Avent, the former Deputy Assistant to President Clinton and White House Liaison to Indian Country and First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton; Terry Goddard, the former mayor of Phoenix, AZ; and Native American leaders with experience on this topic in the United States. The outcome of this event was to raise awareness of the increasing use of prescription drugs among youth and the ever-changing world of the types of "designer drugs". In addition, participants shared strategies to combat this epidemic through youth engagement.

## Toronto

### 2013 Youth Ambassador Mélanie-Rose Frappier in Jamaica with her non-profit



Front right, Melanie-Rose Frappier with her family and kids from the orphanage (Photo Credit: Melanie-Rose Frappier)

17 year-old Melanie-Rose Frappier started her own non-profit organization, *It's cool to be healthy/C'est cool d'être en santé*, after participating in the Youth Ambassador program in 2013. This January, she travelled to Garland Hall Orphanage in Jamaica with her family to deliver school supplies and other donated items from partners and sponsors in Canada, and a cheque of 700.00\$ to help purchase a commercial washing machine. Check out this [video](#) of Melanie-Rose's trip. Encourage Mélanie-Rose by following her Facebook page [C'est cool d'être en santé](#).



At the Garland Hall Orphanage (Photo Credit: Melanie-Rose Frappier)

## Ottawa

### Alumni Pub nights

Kicked off in July 2014, the Ottawa Alumni Pub Nights have brought together a different crowd of alumni on each occasion and have been a great success. In November 2014, alumnus Alan Freeman, now Senior Fellow at the University of Ottawa's Graduate School of Public and International Affairs and ex-journalist, joined Political Affairs Officer Adam West in leading a discuss on U.S. midterm elections.

The Next Pub night will be held Monday January 26<sup>th</sup> at the Heart & Crown Pub in Ottawa's By Ward Market from 5pm to 7pm. IVLP Alumnus Andre La Prairie, now Manager with the Public Health Agency of Canada will be speaking alongside Erik

Vincent, Regional Emergency Coordinator with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. They will talk about emergency preparedness and the Canada-U.S. work on Ebola.



Political Officer Adam West and Alumnus Alan Freeman discuss US midterm elections with Alumni and Embassy Staff (Photo Credit: Embassy Ottawa)

### The Canadian Race Relations Foundation 2014 Symposium



Left, Imam Mohamad Jebara with Symposium colleagues (Photo Credit: CRRF)

The Canadian Race Relations Foundation organized a symposium titled "Our Canada: Building on Citizenship, Building for Citizenship". Imam Mohamed Jebara who participated in an International Visitor Leadership on civic engagement in 2011 was invited to speak on multi faith and belonging.

Read more from Imam Mohamad Jebara:

In the Ottawa Citizen: <http://ottawacitizen.com/news/local-news/mohamad-jebara-true-strength-is-not-rage>

In the Globe and Mail: <http://www.theglobeandmail.com/globe-debate/dear-john-maguire-canada-has-made-me-a-better-muslim/article22082507/>

### Meeting with Thomas Adams, Haiti Special Coordinator

On November 22<sup>nd</sup>, Public Affairs Ottawa organized a small meeting for some cultural contacts and alumni with the U.S. Special Coordinator to Haiti, Thomas Adams. Mr. Adams shared some updates on the current situation in Haiti, from a diplomatic and political perspective, allowing some of our academic contacts who work in, and research Haiti to gain some insight and ask questions. We are thankful to Mr. Adams for taking some time out of his busy schedule to come to the Embassy. To read more about the Office of the Haiti Special Coordinator, visit <http://www.state.gov/s/hsc/>.

### Clubs Collaboration: A Youth in Action Project by Yasmine Alkadri, 2014 Youth Ambassador

Sixteen year-old Yasmine Alkadri took part in the 2014 Youth Ambassador Program, a three-week exchange program for Canadian students to travel to the U.S. and learn about leadership, engagement and civic education. Upon her return, Yasmine started working on her community project through the Youth in Action Club, where she is the co-leader. Her project is a collaboration of high school clubs with the goal to successfully provide her school with fundraiser events and awareness drives. To learn more about Yasmine's project, check out her great [Youtube video](#).

## Fulbright Community

### Fulbright Arctic Initiative US\$40,000 : Apply Now! The Competition is Closing Soon

The **Fulbright Arctic initiative** is a regional network for applied research designed to create an interdisciplinary collaboration of scholars, professionals, and applied researchers from the United States, Canada, Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Russia and Sweden. The program will engage sixteen outstanding scholars who will conduct policy-based research (individually and collectively) that is relevant to the shared challenges or Arctic Council countries. The program focuses on four areas: health, infrastructure, water, and energy. Successful candidates will receive a US\$40,000 grant and will participate in an individual Fulbright exchange of a minimum of six weeks up to three months. Lead scholars [Dr. Michael Sfraga](#) and [Dr. Ross A. Virginia](#) will provide intellectual leadership and direction for the program. The program will begin in spring 2015 and conclude in fall of 2016. The Fulbright Arctic Initiative is supported by the US Department of State, through the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA), and by partner governments in the Arctic Council region.



#### **Closing dates:**

**Canadian Applicants:** February 2, 2015

**American Applicants:** February 16, 2015

**Contact:** [Brad Hector](#), Fulbright Canada Program Officer (Scholars)

[More information](#)

[Apply Now](#)

### 2015 Fulbright Canada-U.S. Embassy in Ottawa Community Leadership Program

We are pleased to announce the selection committee has chosen this year's winners for the Fulbright Canada-U.S. Embassy in Ottawa Community Leadership Program. The Fulbright Canada Community Leadership Program, which is co-sponsored by the U.S. Embassy in Canada, provides an opportunity for alumni of the Canada-U.S. Fulbright Program and alumni from all USG sponsored programs to take action, get involved, and organise a community-based volunteer project that has a positive impact on a Canadian community. This year's recipients are: Dr. Victor Armony, Fulbright scholar 2011-2012, for his project "Latino Canadians and the legacy of human rights violations in Latin America", which aims to foster a conversation about the legacy of human rights violations and crimes against humanity as a collective memory shared by Canadians of Latin American heritage. Charlene Desrochers, Fulbright student 2005-2006, for her project #MyTimeisNow, a forum aimed at educating Indigenous girls about violence and its prevention. Dr. Bruno Dupeyron, Fulbright Visiting Research Chair 2013-2014, for his project "Building Bridges between Saskatchewan's Francophone Communities", which aims to cultivate positive cross-cultural relations between teams of high school students to strengthen the Francophone community in Saskatchewan. And finally, Anand Mahadevan, 2009-2010 Fulbright Student, for his project "Bright Lights in the Lab Scholars Program", which will allow underrepresented youth to attend a two-week lab-based neuroscience summer camp. Congratulations to all recipients! These projects are innovative, diverse and culturally rich; we look forward to watching them unfold in the communities!



#### **Another Fulbrighter in the Headlines**

Dr. Catherine Kretsoulas, clinical epidemiologist and Fulbright Canada alumni (Fulbright student 2011-2012), has been prominently covered in the media recently for her ground-breaking research on angina, the cardinal manifestation of heart disease, from a gender-centered perspective. Dr. Kretsoulas states that, "There is a prevailing perception that heart disease is a 'man's disease', despite being the leading cause of mortality and morbidity in women. Understanding symptoms is critical to both the individual experiencing them and to the clinician assessing them". In a series of progressive studies, she investigated angina symptoms in men and women and mapped them onto blockages in the arteries of their heart. Surprisingly, and against prevailing thought, she discovered that symptoms are remarkably similar between men and women but differ greatly in the way they are expressed. Her controversial findings were published in JAMA Internal Medicine. Most recently she presented her study entitled "Symptomatic Tipping Point" at the Canadian Cardiovascular Congress 2014, which explored the difference between men and women in the decision-making process of how they qualify when symptoms are serious enough to seek medical attention. Her findings received substantial media attention on live television, radio shows, and in print, including USA Today, The Doctor

Show on Sirius radio, the Huffington Post, the Times of London, heart.org, Women's Health Magazine, as well as many others.

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## Upcoming program applications

### Apply Soon: 2015 Youth Ambassadors Program with SUNY Plattsburgh

The program sponsors seek energetic applicants who are ready to develop their skills in order to be effective leaders in their schools and communities. Youth applicants must be between 15 and 18 years old at the start of the actual program on July 20, 2015. Applications are also invited from adults who are active as secondary teachers, trainers, school administrators, and/or community leaders who work with teen-aged youth. Applications for the 2015 competition will be available for download from the below webpage in late January 2015 and will be due by March 30, 2015. Interviews for highly qualified applicants will take place in April 2015. Notification of participant selection will be sent by May 2015.

<http://www.plattsburgh.edu/offices/academic/cesca/youthleadership.php>

### Amgen Scholars Program

The Amgen Scholars Program is an internationally recognized undergraduate research initiative offering undergraduates the opportunity to collaborate with faculty at top institutions on cutting-edge scientific research. Students worldwide may now apply to be Amgen Scholars at leading institutions in Japan: [Kyoto University](#), and [The University of Tokyo](#). Applications for the 2015 Amgen Scholars Program in Japan are now available and the closing date is February 2, 2015. Note that applicants do not need to currently attend one of the Japan host institutions to participate. Eligibility requirements, as well as site-specific programming information is available via [amgenscholars.com](http://amgenscholars.com).

Japan Program [flyer](#) and [e-Card](#). To learn more about the [Amgen Foundation's](#) commitment to advancing STEM education in the U.S., Europe and now Japan, see this [recent news story](#).



Free access to online reference databases at [alumni.state.gov](http://alumni.state.gov)

Make your U.S. 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! There's also the \$33 billion worth of grant opportunities. All you need to do is register at [State Alumni!](#) [Alumni.state.gov](http://Alumni.state.gov)

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