

# ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2014

## Ottawa Alumni Enjoy a Visit from Ambassador and Mrs Heyman



(Photo Credit: United States Embassy Ottawa) Ambassador Heyman and Vicki Heyman, Public Affairs Officer Judith Bryan and Cultural Affairs Intern Darren Touch with Ottawa Alumni

By Darren Touch, Cultural Affairs Intern

Ottawa alumni attended a breakfast briefing on April 1<sup>st</sup> with the heads of the Political, Economic and Public Affairs Section, as well as the Department of Homeland Security. Ambassador Heyman and his wife Vicki greeted alumni and took a few minutes to talk about how excited and enthused they are to be in Canada. Taking the time to share their vision, goals and interests, there was an overall feeling of excitement for the Ambassador and his wife.

Alumni then heard from several U.S. Diplomats discussing on-going issues facing our two nations and were able to ask questions. The Ottawa Alumni Council was present and just like other councils across Canada, members share their ideas and projects with each other and Public Affairs colleagues at the Embassy. This breakfast briefing also provided an opportunity for our alumni to share their current projects.

Among those present, Eric Zeemering, 2014 Fulbright Research Chair in Governance and Public Administration at the University of Ottawa will be giving a conference at the university entitled *Collaborative Strategies for Urban Sustainability: Investigations in Canada and the United States*. Consult the event [flyer](#) for more details and to RSVP.

**Event information:** April 22, 2014, 2:30-4:00pm, 120 University (FSS building, room 4004)



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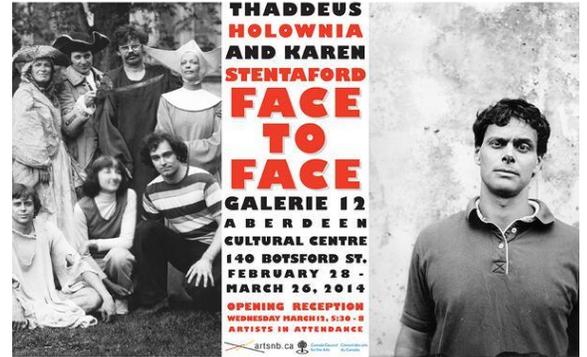
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INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE ALUMNI

# Alumni Community: News and Events

## Halifax and Atlantic Canada

### February 28-March 26, 2014 - Exhibit: *Face to Face*

2001-2002 Fulbright Scholar Thaddeus Holownia from New-Brunswick showcased some of his work in a photography exhibition in Moncton, New Brunswick in March. Along with colleague Karen Stentaford, Holownia presented *Face to Face*, which reflects on two types of portraiture photography. Holownia featured photographs that include diverse groups such as The Ships Company Theatre, Sackville Swim Club and many others.



## Montreal

### Montreal Honors 2014 Black History Month Laureates



(Photo credit: Kevin Calixte)  
Madwa-Nika Phanord-Cadet with laureates  
Fabrice Vil and Nydia Dauphin

On February 19, U.S. Consulate Montreal's Consul General Andrew Parker and his wife Sheryn Hylton-Parker hosted a reception at their residence to celebrate Black History Month. This was the Consulate's seventh annual reception in honor of the laureates of the Round Table on Black History Month, and the seventh year the Consulate has partnered with the organization to celebrate this occasion. The Round Table, a non-profit organization that promotes activities focused on the history and the contemporary situation of Black communities in the province carefully selects laureates each year based on their diligent community work for the greater integration of the African diaspora. This year's theme was "None of us acting alone can achieve success", which was inspired by Nelson Mandela's 1994 inauguration speech.



(Photo credit: Kevin Calixte)  
Stephanie Jecrois and Margaret Archer

### Dominique Anglade selected as one of the 2014 Young Global Leaders



Dominique Anglade, Canadian International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP) alumna, was recently selected as one of the 2014 Young Global Leader (YGL) by the World Economic Forum. Dominique is among the 214 YGLs coming from 66 countries across 7 regions, who equally represent the public and private sector. In 2005, Dominique participated in the IVLP on U.S. Economy focusing on trade and government policy and legislation. She is President and CEO of Montreal International, a non-profit organization created in 1996 whose mandate is to attract foreign direct investment, international organizations and strategic talent to Greater Montreal. She is one of the very few Quebecers to have received this honor. She will be travelling to China to participate in the YGL forum in September.

## Ottawa

### February 3 - Minister Baird Announces Appointment to National Capital Commission

On February 3<sup>rd</sup> 2014 Foreign Affairs Minister John Baird announced the appointment of Mark Kristmanson as chief executive officer of the National Capital Commission (NCC). Previous to this appointment, Dr. Kristmanson was Director, Capital Interpretations and Commemorations, at the NCC. He served as the founding Executive Director of the New Brunswick Arts Board from 2000 to 2003. Dr. Kristmanson was also the 2011 Canada-U.S Fulbright Visiting Research Chair in Public Diplomacy at the University of Southern California. His researched focused on the role of cities in international relations.

## February 25 - CELADA Roundtable on African Land-Grabs

The Coalition for Equitable Land Acquisitions and Development in Africa (CELADA) organized a roundtable in Ottawa to bring together Members of Parliament, academics, researchers and members of the development NGO community. Speakers included Robert Fox, Executive Director of Oxfam Canada; Obang Metho, Executive Director of Solidarity Movement for the New Ethiopia; and Maggy Razafimbahiny, member of CELADA and development activist. Joining them on a discussion panel were Annie Brunton, University of Ottawa student, and Bruce Moore, President of People Centred Development. The event was convened by H el ene Laverdi ere, Member of Parliament for Laurier-Ste-Marie and official opposition critic for international development. The discussion was moderated by Fulbright Alumni Roy Culpeper, Senior Fellow at the University of Ottawa's School of International Development and Global Studies, and Chair of CELADA.



(Photo Credit: US Embassy Ottawa) From left to right: Panelists Robert Fox, Obang Metho, Maggy Razafimbahiny, and Roy Culpeper

The discussion generated a number of ideas and suggestions to tackle the rising tide of land-grabs resulting in involuntary displacement of customary inhabitants in Africa and other developing countries. Some of the suggestions presented were: a call for greater leadership, coherence and transparency in Canada; and that Parliament consider legislative action similar to that recently taken by the U.S. Congress, notably to ensure that foreign aid is not associated directly or indirectly with involuntary displaced by land grabs be recognized.

## February 25 - Tayyibah Taylor on Empowering Muslim Women



(Photo Credit: US Embassy Ottawa) L-R: Sana Khalil, Tayyibah Taylor, Ferrukh Faruqi, Naima Sidow, and Erica Bregman

Tayyibah Taylor, founding editor-in-chief and publisher of Azizah Magazine, was in Ottawa in February to dispel myths about Islam and with a message of empowerment to Muslim women. Ms. Taylor spoke to a crowd of fifty in the conference room of the Ottawa Citizen, an event co-sponsored by the Ottawa Chapter of the Canadian Council for Muslim Women (CCMW) and the Cordova Academy. Ms. Taylor highlighted the importance of interfaith cooperation to counter negative stereotypes of Muslim women. She described her own spiritual and professional path, and using extraordinary Muslim women achievers in the U.S. as examples, she showed that Muslim women need not be defined by others' negative perceptions, but can chart their own path of excellence. Four of our exchange alumni attend Ms. Taylor's presentation, including representatives from the CCMW and Cordova Academy.

Read more about Ms. Taylor and Azizah Magazine at [www.aizahmagazine.com](http://www.aizahmagazine.com).

## March 20 – Workshop on Modern Slavery- Alumni Grant



(Photo Credit: US Embassy Ottawa) Teachers interacting during the workshop

Public Affairs Ottawa awarded a grant to Fulbright alumni, Thomas Allen and Amelia Brown who worked together to bring two American speakers to Ottawa to conduct a workshop on the topic of slavery, historical and modern-day. This event consisted of a full-day training workshop for 40 elementary and secondary school teachers by the Sister Team of Marjorie Gann and Janet Willen, authors of Five Thousand Years of Slavery. The purpose of the program was to raise awareness about issues such as racism, and give ideas about how young people can help combat these problems.

## April 1 - Panel on Organ and Tissue Donation

International Visitor Leadership Program participants from 2011, Erica Bregman and Imam Mohamad Jebara organized a panel on organ transplant entitled *Transplant: Patient and Donor Stories*. The panel was co-sponsored with the Carleton University Student Association (CUSA) and Trillium Gift of Life Network (TGL). Bringing together representatives of different faith communities, the evening kicked off with dialogue around the importance of reflecting and informing ourselves on the issue and impacts of becoming a donor. The second half of the evening invited donor families and a donor recipient to share their touching stories. In a room of over 60 participants, the speakers captured the attention of everyone present, leaving everyone with a great deal to reflect on. Organizers encourage you to visit [www.beadonor.ca](http://www.beadonor.ca).



(Photo Credit: CUSA) From left to right: Jagdeep Perhar (President, Canada-India Association), Reverend Dr. Anthony Bailey (Parkdale United Church), Rabbi Reuven Bulka (Chair, Trillium Gift of Life Network), Imam Mohamad Jebara (Headmaster Cordova Academy), and Dr. Singh Lall (President, Sikh Community Services Ottawa)

## April 4 – 2014 Community Leadership Program Recipients

### National Capital History Day

The U.S. Embassy and Fulbright Canada are pleased to announce the recipients of the 2013-2014 Community Leadership Program (CLP). The CLP supports Canadian Alumni of U.S. government exchange programs who want to make a contribution in their community. This grant provides up to \$8,000 on a competitive basis to groups of three or more alumni. This year's CLP recipients are Ruth Dunley, and Ian McGrath from Ottawa; Marcia Ostashewski from Vancouver; James McNiven from Halifax; and Magdalena Muir from Yellowknife. All recipients have worked in teams to put forward their proposals and carry out their projects.



(Photo Credit: US Embassy Ottawa) Fulbright Alumna, Ruth Dunley; Cultural Affairs Officer, Diane Sovereign; Kim Fortney

Former Fulbright Scholars Ruby Heap, professor at the University of Ottawa, and Ruth Dunley, Postmedia journalist, applied for and received the CLP grant that helped put together National Capital History Day in Ottawa on April 4. National Capital History Day is a history competition for students in Grades 9 to 12. Students can enter projects in different categories (exhibit, essay, website, performance, or documentary), which are then judged by a panel of educators, historians and journalists. National Capital History Day is based on the successful National History Day Program in the U.S., which started in 1974. For more information on CLP recipients and their community projects, visit <http://www.fulbrightblog.ca/announcement-community-leadership-grant-recipients/>. For more information on the U.S. National History Day program visit <http://www.nhd.org/>.

### Level the Ice

Canadian Fulbright Student (2010-2011) Ian McGrath is partnering with fellow Fulbright Alumni Robin McLay and Scott Delaney to present a project called Level the Ice. Level the Ice will deliver elite hockey coaching and training to 20 disadvantaged and promising hockey players aged 13-14 years old. The program offers both on-ice and off-ice conditioning and mentorship. Level the Ice will take place from July 6-12, 2014 at the Sensplex in Kanata. To nominate a deserving young player and get more information on the program, visit <http://www.leveltheice.com/index.html>.

## Toronto

### Justice in Toronto Public Lecture Series

The Justice in Toronto Lecture Series, co-sponsored by the University of Toronto Global Cities Institute began with a lecture on Race and Justice in Toronto, featuring Gary Pieters, President of Toronto's Urban Alliance on Race Relations and State Department Alumni, and Scot Wortley, Professor at the Centre for Criminology and Socio-legal Studies at the University of Toronto. This series of public forums addressed some sources of injustice in Toronto and proposed ways to make the city more just. Each lecture was given jointly by an academic scholar and a city activist.



### Aboriginal Youth Champion Award



2013 Youth Ambassador Mélanie-Rose Frappier received the Aboriginal Youth Champion Award in March at the Aboriginal Youth Conference *Gathering our Voices 2014* for her great community work. Mélanie-Rose is a grade 11 student at École secondaire du Sacré-Coeur in Sudbury. She is very active in her community by being a leader to her peers and participating in her local school board's aboriginal education program. Congratulations Mélanie-Rose for this great award and for your community involvement!

## Winnipeg

### March 21-22 – International Day for the Elimination of Racism

U.S. Consulate Winnipeg cooperated with alumnus Omar Siddiqui and several local NGOs to recognize International Day for the Elimination of Racism. In partnership with the Islamic Social Services Association and Canadian Muslim Leadership Institute, as well as the University of Winnipeg and the Manitoba Association for Rights and Liberties, US Consulate Winnipeg presented two events to mark the 2014 International Day of Racism. Thanks to a grant from the Public Affairs Section at U.S. Embassy Ottawa, the Consulate was able to sponsor a visit to Winnipeg by U.S. film Director Jacob Bender to speak about his film "Out of Cordoba" and the broader theme of peaceful coexistence between cultures and religions. The documentary film "Out of Cordoba" presents the enduring influence of Jewish and Muslim thought on the art and culture of Europe and the West. The documentary is an acclaimed production that explores the legacy of two great thinkers of Muslim Spain - one Jewish and one Muslim - as well as their contemporary importance for interfaith relations in the current context of our struggles against religious extremism.

There were two screenings of Mr. Bender's film "Out of Cordoba" – followed by a Q&A with Mr. Bender on March 21 and March 22. Both sessions were well attended and provided excellent opportunities for discussion.



(Photo Credit: US Winnipeg Consulate) US Director Jacob Bender

## Calgary

### April 15-17 Conference on Human Trafficking

Corporal Nicole Dawood, of the serious/organized crime division of the RCMP organized a national conference on Human Trafficking taking place in Banff, Alberta April 15-17 2014. Nicole participated in an International Visitor Leadership Program in 2012 on Child Protection. She worked with the U.S. Consulate General in Calgary to bring U.S. Department of Justice human trafficking prosecutor, Jared Fishman, to the conference to participate in a panel discussion on the topic of prosecuting human trafficking cases in Canada and the U.S. Outside of the conference, Nicole and the Public Affairs Office at the Calgary consulate have also organized a country-wide digital video conference and a public event for local law enforcement and organizations working to combat human trafficking.

# Grants

## Alumni Small Grants Program

The United States Embassy in Ottawa is pleased to announce the 2014 Alumni Small Grants Program. We encourage all Alumni of U.S. government-sponsored exchange programs to apply. To be eligible for this program, you must be registered on the International Exchange Alumni Website. If you haven't already done so, please register here: <https://alumni.state.gov>.

The Alumni Small Grants Program encourages and promotes 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. However 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 **on a rolling basis until September 1, 2014** or until funds are exhausted.

To view the Alumni Small Grants Program document, click [here](#).  
For information and to submit proposals, contact [AlumniCanada@state.gov](mailto:AlumniCanada@state.gov).

## Public Affairs Small Grants Program

The U.S. Embassy Ottawa Public Affairs Section (PAS) of the U.S. Department of State is pleased to announce that limited funding is available through the Embassy's Public Affairs Small Grants program to support activities that promote U.S.-Canada bilateral relations in the following four priority areas: 1) Increase entrepreneurship and economic prosperity, maximize economic growth and bilateral trade, tourism, and investment, especially among youth and underserved communities; 2) Enhance civil society's ability to respond to transnational crime, natural disasters or terrorist threats; 3) Enhance bilateral partnerships in promotion of rule of law assistance, development, and cooperation in the Americas and beyond; and 4) Promote cultural exchange and enhance understanding of our shared history, traditions, and values. Preference will be given to proposals that address the first three areas.

For more details, click [here](#).

## Alumni Engagement Innovative Fund

On April 1<sup>st</sup>, Education and Cultural Affairs launched the 2014 Alumni Engagement Innovation Fund! The State Department created the Alumni Engagement Innovation Fund in 2011 to support initiatives that promote shared values and innovative solutions to global challenges. The competition provides small grants to teams of past and current participants of U.S. government-sponsored exchange programs to carry out public service projects in their communities. To participate, alumni must be members of the International Exchange Alumni (IEA) global online community and form teams of at least five IEA community members. Proposed projects must embody one the other AEIF themes. In 2013, 53 grants of up to \$25,000 were awarded to alumni teams to support their public service projects.

For more information on the themes selected for AEIF 2014, visit <https://www.alumni.state.gov/aeif>.

### AEIF timeline:

April 1: AEIF begins

April 23: Proposals are due by 11:59 EST

May 6: Finalists are announced, and alumni can log in to vote for their favorite projects

May 27: Final proposals are due by 11:59 EST

Late June: AEIF 2014 winners are announced



**Stay in Touch with Alumni around the World**



International Exchange Alumni joined Tumblr! You can visit the brand new #ExchangeAlumni Tumblr blog here <http://goo.gl/8JlOkT>

If you're an exchange participant, or alumna/us of an exchange program, this blog is just for YOU! From job listings, to exchange program information and alumni stories, to virtual dance parties—this blog was designed just for you to share information and meet other exchange participants and alumni.

Do you have a Tumblr page too? Let us know, we'd love to follow you. This is your space, so have fun with it!

Follow us on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/InternationalExchangeAlumni>

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