

U.S. MISSION TO CANADA ALUMNI NEWSLETTER - JULY 2014

2014 Youth Ambassadors Program



2014 Youth Ambassadors (Photo Credit: United States Embassy Ottawa)

By Chelsea McCulloch, Public Affairs Intern

On July 22, 2014, The U.S. Embassy in Ottawa hosted Canadian high school students, youth alumni, and adult mentors during the departure orientation for the 2014 Youth Ambassadors Program (YAP). YAP is a partnership between the U.S. Embassy Ottawa, the State University of New York (SUNY) College in Plattsburgh, and Fulbright Canada, which awards travel funds to send Canadian to the U.S. for study tours. This year YAP received over 150 applications from across Canada apply, and 18 participants from 8 provinces were selected to travel to the U.S. and represent the diversity of Canada.

This three week program brings together high school students and adult mentors from Canada to promote mutual understanding, increase leadership skills, and prepare youth to make a difference in their communities. During stops in Plattsburgh, Washington D.C., and New York City, participants will explore themes including: civic education, community service, youth leadership development, and entrepreneurship. Since starting in Brazil in 2002, the U.S. Department of State Youth Ambassadors Program has expanded to 25 countries. During the program, Youth Ambassadors assist American volunteers and community service organizations, learn about and experience American culture through homestays, and build links with the American civil society and schools. The students gain new leadership skills and perspectives to take back home so they can apply them to their own service projects in their home communities.

This years' group of enthusiastic participants want to focus on many issues important to the U.S.-Canada relationship: climate change education, a sustainable fine arts program, water conservation awareness, and a mentorship program for elementary school students. Each student presented their idea with passion, thoughtfulness, and genuine concern. The youth alumni that participated in YAP summer 2013 had some insightful ideas to share from their year of experience implementing their own programs, which included common themes such as: tenacity, collective education, and the importance of connection with like-minded people.

Youth Ambassadors have now embarked on their 3 week exchange to the U.S. and will be returning mid-August. If you are interested in mentoring a Canadian Youth Ambassador when they return to Canada, please contact Ariane Guy (GuyA@state.gov).



In this issue:

- Youth Ambassadors Depart on their 3 week trip to the U.S.
- Ottawa IVLP on a 1500 km cycling trip to Halifax
- Ambassador Heyman meets Alumni in Halifax and Montreal
- Level the Ice, a U.S. Embassy and Fulbright Grant program for young hockey players

MORE READS

MOOCs (Massive Open Online Courses) are gaining more and more popularity. Read Business Insider's article "[The 12 Most Popular Free Online Courses For Professionals](#)".

Forbes' "[5 Ways to Refresh Your Leadership Style](#)"

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Alumni Community: News and Events

HALIFAX AND ATLANTIC CANADA

Ambassador Heyman meets the ACSAN

By Johnny McPherson

During their 21 day journey across Canada (Hmmm, the IVLP exchange program is for three weeks too. Coincidence?), Ambassador and Mrs. Heyman connected with IVLP alumni in Halifax, Nova Scotia. Pictured here with Ambassador Heyman are Johnny McPherson and Jody Rice-Gallagher of the Atlantic Canada State Alumni Network (ACSAN).

Learn more about the ACSAN here: <http://bit.ly/1jKMWpL>



From left to right: Ambassador Heyman with Johnny McPherson and Jody Rice-Gallagher
(Photo Credit: U.S. Consulate Halifax)

Community Leadership Program Grant Recipient Quanda Johnson

Originally from Philadelphia but living in New York, Quanda Johnson arrived in Halifax in 2013 as a Fulbright student. During her stay, she researched the journey of slaves escaping from the U.S. to the Maritimes and Quebec using the Underground Railroad. She is affiliated with the University of Dalhousie's Departments of Music and Theatre and NSCAD University's Media Arts Department. Johnson was able to travel in the Maritimes, Quebec as well as Ontario, learning, and gathering information and stories that would eventually lead her to put together "Beyond the Veil of the Sorrow Songs", a theatrical multimedia project. Through Fulbright's Community Leadership Program grant, Quanda Johnson along with her team project members Dr. James McNiven, Scott See and Cambria Findley-Grub, "Beyond the Veil of the Sorrow Songs" was created out of a mix of dance, vocals, instrumental, theatre and visual arts. To read more about Johnson's project, click [here](#).



Jodi Roce-Gallagher, Scott Jones, Gary Logan and Johnny McPherson. (Photo Credit: U.S. Consulate Halifax)

U.S. Consulate Halifax Celebrating 4th of July

At the U.S. Consulate's Independence Day party in Halifax, Atlantic Alumni members Jodi Rice-Gallagher, Gary Logan and Johnny McPherson met Scott Jones and posed for a picture in support of his Don't BE Afraid campaign against homophobia. More information on Scott's campaign can be found at <https://www.facebook.com/dontbeafraidcampaign>.

QUEBEC

Quebec IVLP alumnus working in the Quebec Premier's Office

Quebec city International Visitor Leadership Program alumnus Sebastien Proulx is now a communications advisor to Quebec's Premier Philippe Couillard. Proulx participated in the IVLP program in 2010 'Modernizing North American Electricity Grids and Renewable Energy Resources'. Before working in the Premier's office, Proulx was a member of the Quebec legislature for the ADQ (Action Démocratique du Québec) party and a lawyer with Heenan Blaikie in Trois-Rivières, Quebec.

MONTREAL

Comparative Political Discussion with Montreal Students

Paebo Kurian, Consular Officer; Christian Sénéchal, Volunteer Visitor alumnus; Corrine Harbec, PD Intern; Julien Toureille, UQAM Professor (Photo Credit : U.S. Consulate Montreal)

On April 8, Montreal arranged an informal discussion on comparative political systems with students at the University of Quebec at Montreal (UQAM). The discussion, featuring both the American and Canadian perspectives, was held during an undergraduate class lecture on Contemporary Political Issues in the United States. A Consular Officer provided the American perspective while Christian Sénéchal, alumnus of an individual Dance Therapy Voluntary Visitor program, provided the Canadian perspective. Students engaged in an open forum with the speakers and discussed several topics, ranging from provincial vs. state power and the centralization of government, to contrasting bi-party and multi-party systems and the role of the judiciary system. Public Affairs staff also presented the State Department internship program and encouraged students to apply. The event was successful in creating an open dialogue with local students and providing a broader perspective of both countries' political cultures and systems.

Montreal Welcomes Ambassador & Mrs. Heyman

On May 28, the Montreal Consulate was pleased to welcome the newly appointed U.S. Ambassador to Canada Bruce Heyman and his wife Vicki on their first official visit to Montreal as part of an extensive cross-country welcome tour. One of the events Ambassador and Mrs. Heyman participated in was an Alumni roundtable organized by the Public Affairs section and hosted by Montreal alumna Dominique Anglade, the President and CEO of Montreal International, a key economic player in the Greater Montreal region that attracts investment and promotes cross-border trade. The roundtable consisted of an informal discussion with 12 of Montreal's most influential State Department exchange program alumni from a variety of backgrounds, working in diverse sectors from politics to academics to business and culture. Ambassador and Mrs. Heyman were pleased to learn from a local perspective about pertinent current issues in Quebec.



Ambassador Bruce Heyman & his wife Vicki with Montreal alumni (Photo Credit: U.S. Consulate Montreal)

STEM Fulbright Scholar at the SPIE Astronomical Telescopes + Instrumentation Conference

Patrick McGarey is a 2013-2014 Fulbright STEM Scholar studying Aerospace Engineering at the University of Toronto. He was invited to present some of his research related to developing new technology for space telescopes at the 2014 SPIE (International society for optics and photonics) Conference in Montreal on June 25, 2014. McGarey presented his paper "A 16 Channel Flex Circuit for Cryogenic Microwave Signal Transmission" in which he discusses an improved method to transmit multiple high frequency signals from a telescope sensor array that is both flexible and small. Such an instrument provides higher resolution images of interstellar gas clouds.

OTTAWA

Passing away of Herb Gray on April 21, 2014

This past April saw the passing of the Honorable Herb Gray at the age of 82, who participated in an IVLP exchange program in 1967. Mr Gray served four decades in the House of Commons as a member of the Liberal Party of Canada. He held several portfolios during his time in federal politics and was deputy prime minister from 1997 to 2002. In November 2011, Herb Gray received the inaugural U.S. Mission Canada's Distinguished Alumni Award. Mr Gray was in many ways a key figure in Canadian Politics and contributed much to Canada-United States relations.

Fulbright Conference on Urban Sustainability

Eric Zeemering gave a lecture entitled "Collaborative Strategies for Urban Sustainability: Investigations in Canada and the United States" at the University of Ottawa in April, where he was a Fulbright Visiting Research Chair in Governance and Public Administration. Zeemering presented and discussed some of his latest research on sustainable development, and the challenges of defining policy goals while using examples from Canada and the United States. He highlighted the role of public administrators in developing collaborative relationships to implement urban sustainability initiatives in our cities.

Ottawa hosts the U.S. Congressional Fellows



Congressional Fellows with Ambassador Heyman (Photo Credit: U.S. Embassy Ottawa)

On May 6, U.S. Congressional Fellows were invited to the U.S. Embassy in Ottawa for a briefing with Ambassador Heyman and American Diplomats, as well as a reception with their counterparts the Canadian Parliamentary Interns. Each year, Canadian Interns travel on a study tour to Washington DC where they meet Congressional Fellows, who then travel to Canada. This exchange is just one of the great takeaways from the participants. It is an opportunity for Congressional Fellows and Parliamentary Interns to learn about the legislative process, gain knowledge on specific issues that concern Canada and the U.S. and learn about politics first hand.

Canada Among Nations Series - Book Launch

The Norman Paterson School of International Affairs (NPSIA) and the Centre for International Governance Innovation (CIGI) was proud to present the launch of the 28th edition of the *Canada Among Nations* series on Monday June 9. The book "Crisis and Reform- Canada and the International Financial System" was launch at the event. Alumnus Roy Culpeper's chapter in this book and his presentation discuss the impact of the financial crisis in developing countries.

Alumna judging at Startup Weekend Ottawa

By Public Affairs Intern Shydaea Townes



Alumna Denise Siele (Centre), with 3rd place winners at Startup Weekend (Photo Credit: U.S. Embassy Ottawa)

From June 13 to 15, the US Embassy Ottawa facilitated Startup Weekend, a 54 hour event that brought together 60 attendees to create, expand, and promote their business ideas. These young participants came from 19 cities across Canada and took over Ottawa Ontario, creating an atmosphere buzzing with energy and creativity. Startup coaches and mentors from both the U.S. and Canada were available for advice, assistance and guidance allowing participants to learn from one another. Every Startup Weekend participants took away valuable knowledge and experience that will benefit them in their future projects and endeavors. Alumna Denise Siele who participated in an IVLP exchange on Entrepreneurship and Innovation in December 2013 was invited as a judge for the closing evening event. As an entrepreneur herself (Executive Director of SEM Group), Denise was able to use her background and experience to help these

young Startup participants, by offering advice and asking constructive questions after each presentation. Denise and the three other judges voted the project SHOUT as 1st place winner. For more information on the U.S. Embassy's Startup weekend, visit <http://goo.gl/BErJvj>

Level the Ice

From July 6 to 12, 2014 20 young Canadian hockey players from disadvantaged backgrounds got a chance to receive elite hockey coaching and training thanks to Level the Ice.

Made possible by a Community Leadership Program Grant from the Embassy and Fulbright Canada, [Level the Ice](#) was a weeklong hockey training camp at the Sensplex in Kanata, Ontario. Open to deserving players with strong character who have overcome, or currently face, beyond average economic challenges in playing the game of hockey, the camp combined on- and off-ice instruction with mentorship that brought in community leaders from hockey, business, academic and other successful backgrounds.



Level the Ice participants during training at the Sensplex (Photo Credit: U.S. Embassy Ottawa)

The camp was coordinated by Fulbright alumni Ian McGrath, Robin McLay and Scott Delaney. Ian and Level the Ice Executive Director Andrew Stewart spoke about their vision for the hockey camp in an interview with the Embassy [available on YouTube](#).

For more information on Level the Ice, visit leveltheice.com. Additional information on this grant and other recipients of the 2013-2014 Community Leadership Grant is available both [on this site](#) and at fulbrightblog.ca.

The Cycling Cleric

The Cycling Cleric is the latest interfaith and intercultural project the Cordova Academy has been working on. This project will see IVLP alumnus and local Imam, Mohamad Jebara bike 1 500km from Ottawa to Halifax to raise funds for heart and stroke research, and raise awareness about heart health. In partnership with the Heart & Stroke Foundation, the Cycling Cleric aims to encourage Canadians to stay physically active and to live a healthy lifestyle.

This project has been joined so far by Cantor Daniel Benlolo, Rabbi Steven Garten, and His Most Rev. Terrence Prendergast, S.J., Archbishop of the Catholic Church of Ottawa. Mohamad Jebara will be departing from Ottawa on Friday, August 29. After having toured 15 different cities, he will reach Halifax on Friday, September 19, 2014.

TORONTO

'Who's Reading What?'

The Toronto Public Library's initiative asks some of Toronto's residents what books they've enjoyed recently and why. Some famous and not-so-famous Torontonians have been featured in 'Who's Reading What?' such as IVLP alumnus Gary Pieters. Some of Pieters reads are *The Book of Awesome* and *The Spark: a mother's story of nurturing genius*. Find out what other books he's reviewed and what Torontonians have been reading [here](#).



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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.

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