



# The WHA Fulbright Quarterly

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## Departures and Arrivals

By Eugenia 'Jenny' Verdaguer, WHA Branch Chief

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It is the season of departures and arrivals throughout the region. In late June, ECA had the pleasure of welcoming 52 U.S. grantees to Washington, D.C., for the **Pre-Departure Orientation for U.S. Students and Scholars** going to non-Commission countries. This month, Danielle and I have the opportunity to participate in **Gateway Orientations** for Fulbright Visiting Students arriving at U.S. campuses, ready to begin their academic programs.

In the spirit of celebrating arrivals and departures, we extend a warm welcome (back) to the new Executive Director of Fulbright Colombia, **Adriana Gaviria Duque**. Adriana previously served as the Fulbright Commission's Director of Programs, and we are pleased to be working with her once again. In bittersweet news, we bid farewell and best wishes to long-time CIES colleague and friend **Katrin DeWindt**, whose last day

with CIES is today. Although we will miss Kat tremendously, we are very excited to see her grow professionally in her new role as Deputy Project Director of IREX's Education Programs Division. Congratulations, Kat! ECA also bids farewell to Deputy Assistant Secretary **Meghann Curtis**, whose last day will also be August 7. She will be joining CIEE as their Executive Vice President for Exchange Programs.

In administrative news, nearly nine months ago, TJI Global Solutions, Inc. was contracted to conduct a review and assessment of the current Accident and Sickness Program for Exchanges Program (ASPE). They analyzed the current state of the existing ASPE program, evaluated the desired future state, conducted a gap analysis to provide insights into the areas requiring the most improvement, and explored new options for ECA

*(Continued on page 2)*



Photo: The winning team of U.S. Fulbrighters at Pre-Departure Orientation.

## Upcoming Events and Deadlines

**Sept 18:** Fulbright Canada's 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala

**Oct 13:** Deadline for U.S. Student applications

**Oct 15:** Commissions' Annual Report & Statistical Report due for FY2015

*(Continued from page 1)*

exchange program participants. TJI Global Solutions recently presented their findings and recommendations to us and we are currently in the final stages of decision-making regarding a future health insurance plan for Fulbright participants. We will keep you apprised as news becomes available later in the year.

As announced during the visit of President Dilma Rousseff to the White House, we will be partnering once again with Fulbright Brazil and the Brazilian Agency for Support and Evaluation of Graduate Studies (CAPES) to support a fourth round of the Fulbright Regional Network for Applied Research (NEXUS) Program. This new iteration of the program will continue to bring together 20 scholars from the United States, Brazil, and other countries in the Americas to confront the challenge of climate change through collaborative research. The call for applications will open in late 2016 and the program will conclude in late 2018.

Finally, the Branch is looking forward to seeing many of you at the **WHA Regional Meeting** which will take place February 29 through March 4, 2016 in Miami, Florida. We are thrilled to announce that **Miami Dade College** will be hosting our meeting, which will be open to the entire Fulbright community: Commissions, U.S. Embassies and cooperating agencies are all welcome to join us. Mark your calendars and keep your eyes open for forthcoming information, including a needs-assessment questionnaire which will help inform our agenda and hands-on training sessions for the week.

Happy reading,



## Welcome to New Fulbright Colombia Executive Director: Adriana Gaviria Duque



The WHA Fulbright Branch is pleased to welcome Adriana Gaviria Duque as the new Executive Director of Fulbright Colombia. Adriana returns to Fulbright after previously serving as the Commission's Director of Programs from 2012-2013, and she joins the list of Commission EDs who are also Fulbright alumni, having received a Fulbright award to pursue her Ph.D. in Public and Urban Policy, which she earned in 2012 from the New School University.

Adriana enjoys considerable experience working in and with Colombian government partners, having served as the Head of the International Affairs and Cooperation Office at both of the Ministry of Culture (2013-2015) and the Ministry of Education (2005-2008) and as an advisor to the General Consul at Colombia's General Consulate in New York from 2010-2011. Adriana also possesses significant experience working in the private sector as a microfinance and loan consultant at the "Un Sol M6n" Foundation of Banco Caixa Catalunya in Spain and as a consultant on Latin American development for Idea Born in Barcelona. In addition, her ties to higher education include experience as a CEDE research assistant at the University of the Andes in Colombia. Adriana is an economist and anthropologist by training, and received a Masters of Cooperation and Development from the University of Barcelona.

We look forward to working with Adriana and her team as they continue to build on the successes Ann Mason and the commission achieved over the last decade. We know you share our enthusiasm in wishing her a warm welcome to the WHA Fulbright family.

## Pre-Departure Orientation for U.S. Students and Scholars to Non-Commission Countries

The WHA Fulbright Branch welcomed 52 U.S. Fulbrighters to Washington, D.C., for the Pre-Departure Orientation. This year, several of the orientation's general sessions were shared with grantees of the Fulbright Africa Programs Branch.

Fulbright English Teaching Assistants (ETAs) attended a two-day workshop prior to the general orientation. The workshop was led by English Language Specialist Daniel Lopez, who previously served as a Fulbright ETA in Ecuador, as well as a Regional English Language Officer (RELO) at the U.S. Department of State, and as a Senior English Language Fellow in Mexico, India, and Cape Verde. The aim of the workshop was to provide the ETAs with practical tips and tools that they will be able to use in their host classrooms. Our colleagues in the Office of English Language Programs led one session to familiarize the ETAs with the many digital resources available on the American English website and show them some exercises that they can do using the books and materials they will receive in country at their arrival orientation.

After the ETA Workshop, the U.S. students and scholars joined the ETAs and the Pre-Departure Orientation formally kicked off with remarks by Assistant Secretary Evan Ryan. Over the next two days, the grantees met with IIE and CIES staff to learn about grant benefits and responsibilities and met with 13 Fulbright alumni who shared their insights about everything which cell phone providers are best to time management tips. Invited facilitators led sessions addressing Cross-Cultural Communication and Health and Safety, and Bureau of Western Hemisphere Affairs Senior Advisor Dan Erikson engaged the group about U.S. foreign policy in the region.

Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Chair Betty Castor offered closing remarks; a photo is to the right. A highlight for the grantees, we expect, was the friendly competition in the second annual trivia game, pictured on page 1. More photos are on [Flickr](#).

Additional virtual resources are available for U.S. Fulbrighters on the [pre-departure resources website](#) (use password **mu2alxchange**).



Newly added resources include the **Fulbright Storytelling Training**, which provides certificate courses that will empower grantees to share their Fulbright experiences across multimedia and traditional media channels. Grantees who complete and pass each course will receive a certificate from the Poynter Institute verifying their completion of the program.

The **eLearning course from the Peace Corps** includes lesson plans and classroom quizzes and will help Fulbright ETAs prepare for the wide variety of classroom experiences.

If you have any virtual resources that you would like to add to your country page, please contact your ECA program officer.

### Miscellaneous ECA News

- The Office of Global Educational Programs, through its new U.S. Study Abroad Branch, recently invited all Fulbright EDs to submit proposals to host **capacity-building workshops** to increase and/or diversify U.S. student mobility. Proposals are due to ECA by next Friday, August 14.
- At the Executive Directors' Meeting at NAFSA, Office Director Mary Kirk noted a **change of nomenclature** in how we refer to applicants throughout the various stages of the selection process. In the future, the term "recommended" will be replaced by "semi-finalist" and candidates that are nominated for awards will be called "finalists" until they have signed the terms and conditions of awards that make them "grantees."

# President Obama Appoints Shervin Pishevar to J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board



Shervin Pishevar is Co-Founder and Chairman of Hyperloop Technologies Inc. and Co-Founder and Managing Director of Sherpa Ventures. Mr. Pishevar was a Managing Director and Venture Advisor of Menlo Ventures from 2011 to 2014. He also helped launch the Menlo Talent Fund in 2011. Mr. Pishevar was Founding President and Chief Operating Officer of Webs, Inc. from 2005 to 2011. He was co-Founder, President, Director, and Head of Product, Business Development and Sales for Ionside Interactive from 2001 to 2004. Mr. Pishevar also co-Founded Application Corporation and Seges Capital in 2001 and was Founder and CEO of WebOS from 1997 to 2001. He is a member of the United Nations Foundation's Global Entrepreneurs Council and was honored by the Department of Homeland Security as an "Outstanding American by Choice" in 2012. Mr. Pishevar received a B.A. from the University of California, Berkeley.

## Pre-Departure Orientation for Fulbright-Clinton Fellows



(Photo L-R): WHA-bound Fulbright-Clinton Fellows Alexander D'Agostino, Martine Prompt, Emmanuelle Henry, and Sarah Lupberger.

ECA welcomed the 20 Fulbright-Clinton Fellows as well as eight program alumni to Washington, D.C., for the pre-departure orientation, which took place July 28-31. The 2015-2016 grantees will depart for placements in Burma, Cote d'Ivoire, Haiti, Kosovo, Malawi, Peru, Samoa, Timor-Leste, and Ukraine as well as within the Secretariat of the African Union.

In its first three program years, 64 Fulbright-Clinton Fellows have completed their Fellowships which supported the public policy initiatives in agriculture, democracy building, disaster preparedness/response, economic development, education, energy, environment, food security, health, rule of law, trade, women's advancement, and youth empowerment in fifteen partner governments and one regional organization, including placements within a Prime Minister's Office and an Office of the President.

Fulbright-Clinton Fellows to Peru this year will be affiliated with the Ministry of Education (Alexander D'Agostino) and the Ministry of the Environment (Sarah Lupberger). Fellows to Haiti will be affiliated with the Ministry of Finance (Emmanuelle Henry) and the Ministry of Public Health (Martine Prompt).

Program alumni from Haiti (Ffyona Patel, 2014-15 Haiti, Ministry of Health) and Guatemala (Andrew Palomo, 2013-14 Guatemala, Directorate of Special Education in the Ministry of Education) attended the orientation to share their experiences and advice with the outgoing cohort.

## ECA Hosts Fulbright Science and Technology Capstone

On June 15, ECA hosted the final Fulbright Science and Technology (S&T) Poster Show in the ECA lobby, which gave the final cohort of Fulbright S&T Fellows an opportunity to share their research with Department of State staff. The show was attended by ECA Fulbright program staff and individuals from other STEM-focused offices, including Bureau of

Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs (OES) and the Office of the Science and Technology Adviser to the Secretary (STAS).

The show was part of the Fulbright S&T Capstone, which is the culminating event for Fellows' at the end of their three-year grant in which they gather in Washington, DC, to present their research, meet with individuals from the national scientific community, and attend various STEM and policy-focused briefings, including one at the White House from the Office of Science and Technology Policy.

Following the Capstone, Fellows continue pursuit of their doctoral degrees with the support of their U.S. host institutions. While this was the final Fulbright S&T event for the last cohort of Fellows, over the award's six years, over 200 elite young scientists from 77 countries (35 from WHA) participated by attending 70

top ranked U.S. universities and labs. In the coming years, Fellows should return to their home countries to support the development of the scientific community by taking positions in academia, research, policy-making, or industry.

The 2012-2015 S&T Fellows from the Western Hemisphere are in the photo the left. Renzo is pursuing his Ph.D. in Electrical Engineering at the University of Rochester, where his research focuses on advanced computer architecture and sonar systems. Michael is a Ph.D. student studying operations research (supply chain management and logistic systems) at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Eduardo is a 2009-2012 Fellow who attended the University of Arizona in Optical Sciences at the Center of Astronomical Adaptive Optics. He is completing a post-doc at NASA's Ames Research Lab in California.



Photo L-R: 2012-15 Fulbright S&T Fellows Renzo Bustamante Avanzini (Peru) and Michael Beeler (Canada) participate in the final Fulbright S&T Capstone poster show, and Program Alumni Eduardo Bendik (Chile) attends as an alumni mentor.

**UNITED STATES:** Throughout August and early September, Gateway Orientations will take place on ten U.S. campuses. They are designed to help Visiting Fulbrighters maximize their exchange experiences through a combination of interactive presentations, workshops, networking, and cultural activities, addressing participants' roles and responsibilities as Fulbrighters, developing skills for successful academic and professional lives in the United States, and introducing the U.S. academic system as well as strategies for cultural adaptation in the United States. The Gateways also feature sessions focused on leadership and professional development and provide opportunities for participants to interact with local academic and community leaders.

In the photo to the right, Fulbrighters participate in a leadership workshop in Bloomington, Indiana, which ECA Program Officer Danielle Quigg attended.



## Around the Hemisphere



**TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO:** U.S. Student alumna Allie Fuddy shared her experience as a blind Fulbright student in Trinidad with MIUSA International. You can read about her experience in the new issue of the *A World Awaits You* journal, pages 8-11.

**UNITED STATES:** Dr. Daniel Kammen, Fulbright NEXUS Co-Lead Scholar for 2014-2016, participated in the drafting meetings of Pope Francis' Encyclical on Climate Change. He and three other climate scientists who are currently serving as Senior Fellows for the U.S. Department of State's Energy and Climate Partnership of the Americas (ECPA) initiative, have also published a letter in response to the document that proposes a partnership with the Vatican to identify renewable energy models for the Americas before 2020.

**MEXICO:** June 4, the Fulbright-García Robles Alumni Association and COMEXUS hosted their first cultural tertulia/soirée at the Benjamin Franklin Library in Mexico City. Three Mexican Fulbright alumni with visual arts degrees shared some of their recent works and talked about how their experiences in the United States impacted their art. Over 35 alumni and friends attended the tertulia in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere that led to animated conversations and new friendships. The event also highlighted the impact of the Fulbright-García Robles scholarship on over 200 alumni who enrolled in fine arts and related subjects while in the United States.



On June 23, COMEXUS held a pre-departure event to send off the 2015 cohort of Mexican Fulbright-García Robles grantees who will begin their graduate studies, professional development programs and research projects in the United States this fall. Read more [here](#).



**ECUADOR:** On June 25, the Commission hosted The Fulbright Forum, in which U.S. Fulbright Student Brittany Graf (2014-2015) shared her research about discovering the pharmacological potential of 50 plants that are sold in Ecuadorian markets.



**PERU:** The Fulbright Commission hosted the pre-departure orientation for Visiting Students on June 5.

**BRAZIL:** Sarah Sanderson Doyle, 2012-2013 and 2013-2014 Fulbright English Teaching Assistant (ETA) to Brazil, has won second place in the U.S. Exchange Alumni Citizen Diplomacy Challenge because of her efforts to promote mutual understanding since completing her grant. Sarah spent a total of two years in Brazil with the Fulbright program, acting in her second year as a peer mentor for a group of eleven first-year grantees, developing content, activities and workshops for not only her group, but as part of the mid-year ETA Enhancement in São Paulo, Brazil, in 2014.



July 14-18, the Fulbright Commission hosted a mid-year seminar in São Paulo for 143 Fulbright ETAs in Brazil, Uruguay and Argentina. The U.S. ambassador in Brazil, Liliane Ayalde, provided remarks, photo on the left. The event closed with a “Julina” party, pictured to the right.



Photo: María Eugenia “Jenny” Verdaguer and Fulbright Uruguay Executive Director Mercedes Jiménez de Aréchaga visit the University of Montevideo.

**URUGUAY AND PARAGUAY:** Branch Chief M. Eugenia ‘Jenny’ Verdaguer visited Fulbright programs in Uruguay and Paraguay July 12-19, 2015. In Montevideo and Asunción, she met with Government of Uruguay and Paraguay cost-share partners, PAS colleagues, Fulbright alumni students and scholars, and also visited public and private universities and ETA host institutions. She also participated in Fulbright Uruguay’s Board of Directors quarterly meeting and attended the signing of a memorandum of understanding between the Fulbright Commission and Uruguay’s ANII (Agencia Nacional de Investigación e Innovación), which expands Fulbright Uruguay’s two-way exchanges through significant partner government funding until 2018.

**ARGENTINA:** FFSB Board Member Emma Sepúlveda provided keynote remarks at the pre-departure orientation for Argentine students, which was held on June 24, at the *Pizzurno* Palace, home to the Ministry of the Education. Ms. Sepúlveda talked to the grantees about the history and objectives of the Fulbright program and about her own experience as a foreign student in the United States. Argentine Fulbright Board Member Santiago Bilinkis also presented to the grantees, addressing how the job market is changing due to automation and robots.

Another important event for Fulbright’s Argentina was the pre-departure reception offered by U.S. Ambassador Noah Mamet to the 20 Young Leaders, a group that is comprised of congressional advisors, researchers, journalists, think tank members and university teachers from all corners of the country, who participated in a program at the Donahue Institute of the University of Massachusetts.





# FULBRIGHT



“The WHA Fulbright Quarterly” is a newsletter distributed by the WHA Fulbright Branch to our colleagues in the Fulbright community — including staff at U.S. Embassies, Fulbright Commissions, and cooperating agencies.

**We welcome your submissions!**

**The deadline to submit for the next issue is October 15.**

When possible, please include pictures and links along with news items. All materials should be sent to Danielle Quigg at [QuiggDC@state.gov](mailto:QuiggDC@state.gov).