



The WHA Fulbright Quarterly

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Fulbright News from Washington, D.C.

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Thanks to all who traveled from distant places to join us at our **Fulbright 70th anniversary** reception in November. It was indeed a festive occasion with guests that included members of the diplomatic corps, Fulbright alumni, current and former FFSB members, Fulbright Commission directors, and the Department of Education as well as Fulbright Program staff and partners.

We are pleased to begin 2017 with the launch of the new **Fulbright Specialist Program** Management portal under new administration with World Learning. Your team members should have already received login information to access the platform, and live webinars and training opportunities are being offered to support this transition. If you have any portal-related questions, please contact World Learning staff at fulbrightspecialist@worldlearning.org.

Many of you might have heard that last November, President Obama signed an executive order providing for the appointment of recent alumni of the Fulbright U.S. Student program, the Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship Program, and the Critical Language Scholarship



Giuseppe Céspedes, Fulbright ETA alumnus to Brazil, 2011-2012, speaks of his experience at 70th anniversary celebration.

Program to the **competitive** and added value that **federal service**. This not only Fulbright and ECA recognizes the advanced exchanges provide skills, cultural competence

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Calendar of Deadlines and Events

- **Feb 1:** Visiting Student competition opened
- **Feb 1:** U.S. Scholar competition opened
- **Feb 2:** Fulbright Ecuador 60th Anniversary Reception
- **Feb 9:** FFSB Quarterly Meeting in Washington, D.C.
- **Feb 20-24:** ETA Mid-year Seminar in Quito, Ecuador
- **Mar 1:** Global UGRAD nomination deadline
- **Mar 2:** Alumni Engagement Innovation Fund launches
- **Apr 3:** U.S. Student competition opens

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participants but also enhances the programs' prestige through additional program benefits. Guidance is forthcoming.

With the **new administration**, there have been changes to our leadership at all levels. On February 1, the U.S. Senate confirmed Rex W. Tillerson as Secretary of State. Ambassador Bruce Wharton is Acting Under Secretary of State for Public Diplomacy and Public Affairs, succeeding Richard Stengel, who returned to the private sector last December. In ECA, we bid farewell to Assistant Secretary Evan Ryan and Deputy Assistant Secretary for Academic Programs, Mala Adiga, in early January. Mark Taplin is serving as Acting Assistant Secretary and Marianne Craven is serving as Acting ECA/A Deputy Assistant Secretary. Moving forward, as we further transition into our new

administration, you will be hearing from us with additional announcements and program news as confirmation of political appointments become available to us.

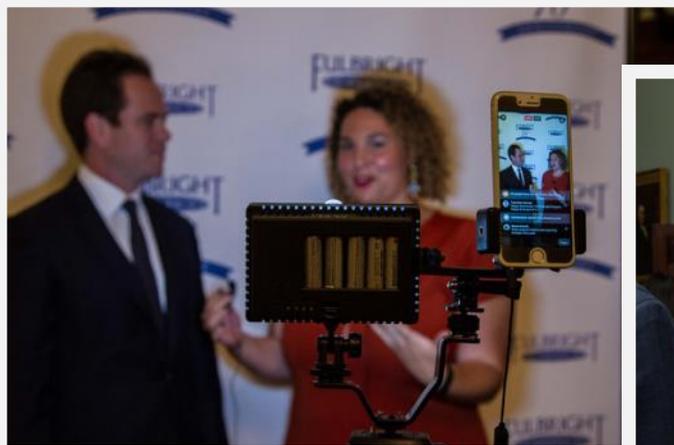
I am pleased to share with you that in mid-January, President Obama appointed several new FFSB members. The **new members were sworn in** at the FFSB Quarterly Meeting, which took place earlier this month. More information is on page 6.

Thanks to all Commissions for submitting their **Annual Budgets and Program Proposals** for ECA's review. This month we will be discussing proposed plans with all Directors through conference calls. Stay tuned.

Warm regards,



More photos from the Fulbright 70th anniversary celebration





ECUADOR

On February 2, in celebration of the **60th anniversary** of Fulbright Program in Ecuador, the Commission and Public Affairs Section hosted a reception for approximately 300 Fulbright alumni and other special guests at the Santo Domingo Church in Quito, Ecuador. During the ceremony, **U.S. Ambassador Todd Chapman bestowed upon Fulbright Executive Director Susana Cabeza de Vaca the Ambassadorial Lifetime Achievement Award** for her contributions in strengthening the educational links between Ecuador and the United States. Ambassador Chapman also announced a new fund in the amount of \$50,000 for alumni activities.

A [video created during the event](#) that is posted on the U.S. Embassy Quito's Facebook page has received over **20,000** views!



Around the Hemisphere

MEXICO

The U.S.-Mexico Fulbright Commission (COMEXUS) hosted a **mid-year enhancement seminar** in Tlaxcala, Mexico, January 10-13, for current U.S. Scholars, U.S. Students, and Binational Business Program grantees. COMEXUS hosted a separate seminar in La Paz, Mexico, January 23-27, for Fulbright English Teaching Assistants. ECA Program Officer Danielle Quigg attended the Fulbright ETA enhancement seminar.

Daniel Peña, 2014 Fulbright U.S. Student alumnus, **won the Pushcart Prize** for his story "Safe Home" which was inspired by his time training to be a pilot and learning about cartels flying drugs across the U.S.-Mexico border. The Pushcart Prize is awarded each year to the best short fiction, essays, poetry and other work published by small presses. As a Fulbrighter, Daniel studied America's drug war and its impact in Mexico. [Read more in this article from the Houston Chronicle.](#)



Fulbright ETAs at mid-year seminar during excursion to Isla Espíritu Santo.



Daniel Peña, photo from the Houston Chronicle.

HONDURAS AND NICARAGUA

ECA Program Officer Margaret Dickson travelled to Nicaragua and Honduras in late October for an orientation trip. In Nicaragua, Information Officer and Acting Cultural Affairs Officer Erin Markley, Cultural Specialist Maira Vargas, and Alumni Coordinator Willy Castillo met with Fulbright alumni, current Fulbright U.S. Students and Scholars, and university partners. Cultural Affairs Officer Katherine Tarr and Public Affairs Assistant Gabriela Galvez also arranged meetings with universities, the Honduran Fulbright Alumni Association, outgoing Fulbright Foreign Students, and cost-share partners in Tegucigalpa. Highlights included a tour of the Contemporary Art Museum Ortiz-Gurdian in Leon, Nicaragua, by Director and Fulbright alumnus Alberto Torrez Cerrato, and a meeting with the Instituto Hondureño de Cultura Interamericana, where the very first ETA to Honduras will be placed! In both Nicaragua and Honduras, the prestige of the Fulbright Program was evident, as was the interest in English language programming and building research capacity at universities.



Melvin Enmanuel Cruz Molina, second from right, receives the 2016 Youth Award for Science and Technology. Photo includes President Juan Orlando Hernández and First Lady Ana García de Hernández.

HONDURAS

Melvin Enmanuel Cruz Molina of Honduras, a participant in the 2015-2016 Global UGRAD Program at the University of Minnesota – Twin Cities, [was honored by the President and First Lady of Honduras as a recipient of the 2016 Youth Awards](#). The award recognized Melvin's work using 3D printing to develop and produce prosthetic devices. Melvin first encountered 3D printing during his Global UGRAD Program and since returning to Honduras has launched a non-profit ([Project Guala: Manos en Acción](#)), together with three other Global UGRAD alumni, to supply 3D prosthetics to people in need.

PARAGUAY

During an orientation trip to Paraguay in November, ECA Program Officer Mary Evans had the opportunity to visit the American Corner at the Universidad Nacional de Asunción (UNA) and meet with 2016-2017 U.S. Fulbright Scholar Dr. Rafael Rios.



ECA Program Officer Mary Evans, Dr. Rafael Rios, and Cultural Affairs Specialist Jazmín Ramirez



ECA Program Officer Mary Evans, along with Cultural Affairs Officer Chris Johnson and Cultural Affairs Specialist Jazmín Ramirez, meet with staff at the American Corner at the National University of Asunción.

COLOMBIA

On January 9, 2017, Fulbright Colombia celebrated its **60th anniversary**. Throughout 2017, the Commission will organize several events to celebrate this landmark year, including the conference ‘Communication, Culture and Development’ which took place on January 26 in Cartagena, with the support of the U.S. Embassy, Universidad Jorge Tadeo Lozano, and the Gabriel García Márquez Foundation for New Ibero-American Journalism.

Fulbright Colombia organized the conference **Biodiversity, Climate Change and Sustainable Development: A look at the Amazon Region**, which took place on November 18, in the National University of Colombia, Leticia Branch. The main speakers of the event were Fulbright U.S. Scholars Richard Wallace and Kenneth Feely. Other speakers included Fulbright U.S. Student Paul Furumo and Fulbright alumni Saul Hoyos, María Fernanda Lema, and Germán Palacio. The conference provided the opportunity for the Fulbright Scholars and alumni to engage with other experts, present their findings, provide best practices, and advise local authorities of measures that will contribute to the sustainable development of the region and key focus points for further research. During the event, both the President of the National University of Colombia and Adriana Gaviria Duque, Executive Director of Fulbright Colombia, highlighted the importance of the conference, as it celebrated the fact that a Fulbright Scholar was visiting a Higher Education Institution in Leticia for the very first time in 60 years.



From left to right: Fulbright alumni: Juan Álvaro Echeverri, María Fernanda Lema, and Saúl Hoyos, Executive Director Adriana Gaviria Duque, and Fulbright U.S. Scholars Kenneth Feely and Richard Wallace.

ARGENTINA

In honor of Fulbright Argentina’s 60th anniversary, Correo Argentino designed and produced a “stamp integrated postcard” for use within Argentina. This commemorative piece features abstract versions of the U.S. and Argentine flags with various human figures interacting throughout. It is the first Argentine philatelic product in more than 40 years celebrating a U.S. subject, and there was an unveiling and first cancellation at the Ambassador’s Residence to commemorate the occasion.



FFSB Welcomes New Members at 274th Quarterly Meeting

The [J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board](#) held its 274th Quarterly Board meeting on February 9, in Washington, D.C. at the U.S. Department of State. The event featured a Swearing-In Ceremony, presided over by Acting Under Secretary of State for Public Diplomacy and Public Affairs, Ambassador Bruce Wharton, to welcome five new members and the reappointment of Board Member Maneesh M. Goyal. The new members include former U.S. Senator Mark Pryor, Dr. Markos Kounalakis, Christopher Fonzone, Rudy Mehrbani, and Natalie Quillian. Ambassador Wharton's full remarks can be read [here](#). Additional photos from the ceremony are available [here](#).



Acting Under Secretary for Public Diplomacy and Public Affairs Ambassador Bruce Wharton swears in new members and reappoints a member of the J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board.

During the meeting, the Board discussed program updates and elected Anita McBride as Vice Chair for 2017. Highlights also included a meeting with [Fulbright Alumni Ambassadors](#) Justin L. Hill (Fulbright U.S. Student in Law, Barbados 2009-2010) and Kara Spiller (Fulbright U.S. Student in Engineering, Portugal 2010-2011), who serve as official representatives of the Fulbright Program at conferences, campus presentations, and other recruitment events.

The Board also received briefings from [World Learning](#), a new implementing partner of the Fulbright Specialist Program, and Dr. John B. Bader, Executive Director of the [Fulbright Association](#), about ways to strengthen the partnership between ECA, the Board, and the Alumni Association to more effectively mobilize and empower the Fulbright alumni network to create lasting Fulbright impact in their local, national, and global communities.

FLTA Mid-year Conference

The conference brought 390 Foreign Language Teaching Assistants (FLTAs) from 47 countries to Washington, D.C., midway through their academic year programs. It featured in-depth, academically focused professional development sessions with experts in the fields of teaching and linguistics, as well as networking events and opportunities for FLTAs to discuss their successes and challenges from the first semester. FLTAs also learned about the American value of community service and participated in community service activities at several local organizations. Assistant Secretary Evan Ryan gave welcome remarks.

FULBRIGHT

"The WHA Fulbright Quarterly" is distributed by the Branch to colleagues at U.S. Embassies, Fulbright Commissions, and cooperating agencies.

We welcome your submissions!

Please submit your news and/or photos for the next issue by April 15.