



ICELANDIC GRANTEES WITH FULBRIGHT BOARD MEMBERS AT THE US EMBASSY



SEPTEMBER 2018

With a little help from our friends

Message from Executive Director Belinda Theriault



Dear Fulbrighters and friends of Fulbright,

I want to use this opportunity to give special thanks to Anna Kerttula, who recently retired from NSF, where she was Program Director of the Arctic Social Sciences Program. Anna and I collaborated to start the partnership between the Fulbright Commission in Iceland and NSF to start the Fulbright-NSF Arctic Research Scholar Program. Without Anna's commitment, this project would never have gotten off the ground, nor would it be the success that it is. Anna is a phenomenal woman, scholar, and administrator. I wish her all the best as she moves on to new adventures and hope we will see her in Iceland soon.

Anna also facilitated introductions that led to the new Fulbright-NSF grant program in cyber-security and critical infrastructure. The program is off to a good start. Two Fulbright specialists in this area have visited Iceland so far and more are expected. You can read more about the program below.

Those of you who follow the work of the Commission will know what an important partner NSF has become in the last years. It was, therefore, very much appreciated when the Icelandic Embassy in Washington, D.C. held a luncheon in honor of the Fulbright

Iceland-NSF partnership. Chargé d'Affaires Hreinn Pálsson hosted the lunch at the Ambassador's residence on a beautiful day in June of this year. This was a welcome opportunity to thank our partners at NSF, not least Anna for all her efforts over the past years and our more recent partner in cyber-security, Ralph Wachter.

We have had a busy spring and summer. A number of grantees and specialists were here through the summer. In fact, there was never a time during the past years that we did not have some US grantees in Iceland. That is of course a result of our work to expand opportunities for US grantees and the Icelandic institutions that host them. We have had 26 US grantees in 2017-2018, when scholars, specialists, and students are counted. This is a record number, and some were just leaving as the new 2018-2019 grantees started arriving in mid-August, in time for orientation. We also bid farewell to an outstanding group of Icelandic grantees headed to US HEIs all over the US, from Maine to Florida and from New York to California. Now the work starts to pick next year's group of grantees!

Belinda Theriault

VISITING UNIVERSITIES AROUND ICELAND



ED visit to the Agricultural University

The Commission works to ensure that all universities in Iceland are aware of Fulbright opportunities and to create a level playing field. To this end the ED visits all universities in the fall and gives presentations both for students and faculty, where she discusses Fulbright opportunities as well as study in the US in general. These visits over the past years have resulted in a marked increase in cooperation with universities outside of Reykjavik, especially the hosting of US scholars, who play an important role in strengthening Iceland's small academic community and assisting with internationalization efforts. US scholars also benefit from more diverse opportunities to be hosted in Iceland.

Icelandic institutions that would like to host a US Fulbright core scholar, are invited to apply by the application deadline of 14 October. The same deadline applies for Icelandic students and scholars planning to study or do research in the US.

CYBER-SECURITY IN FOCUS

The Fulbright Commission started a grant program in the field of cyber-security and critical infrastructure last year in cooperation with the National Science Foundation (NSF). The first grantee made two trips to Iceland in the first half of 2018 and gave the program an impressive start. Eileen Decker, a former United States Attorney for the Los Angeles region and former deputy mayor in LA with extensive experience in cyber-security is currently teaching both at USC, where she developed a new course on cyber-crime for law students, and at UCLA, where she developed a course on comparative counter-terrorism. We were fortunate to have her bring her expertise to Iceland, where she



Host Guðmundur Oddsson and Eileen

worked with faculty at the new university-level police academy program at the University of Akureyri.

During her second visit last spring, the Commission also organized Fulbright Cyber-Security Week in Reykjavik. A program of meetings took place, where Eileen met with high-level government officials, including at the Ministry of Justice and Ministry for Foreign Affairs, as well as the National Security Council Contact Group. She also met with the Cyber-Security Council, law enforcement, and Parliament staff and gave an open lecture at the University of Iceland.



Asked to comment on her visit to Iceland, Eileen said *"The visit was extremely rewarding, both professionally and personally. I hope my visit to Iceland helped to increase the discussions of cyber-security issues and raise*

public awareness about this important issue. Even though my Fulbright Specialist visit is complete, I look forward to continuing my collaboration with the University of Akureyri and to assisting the instructors in further developing their cyber-security curriculum. Cyber vulnerabilities exist throughout the world, including in Iceland, and these vulnerabilities are likely to grow in the future.

Despite existing vulnerabilities, Iceland's greatest strengths include: (1) Icelanders recognize that they are vulnerable and lack the specific expertise needed to fully address the problem; and (2) Icelanders are extremely receptive to ideas, suggestions, and materials that will assist their cybersecurity efforts. The resources and expertise available through the Fulbright Commission and the National Science Foundation creates a tremendous opportunity for Iceland to address this complex problem."

Icelandic institutions can apply to receive a Fulbright Specialist or core Scholar in a wide variety of fields related to cyber-security. For more information see http://www.fulbright.is/fraedimenn_til_islands/ or contact the Fulbright Commission.

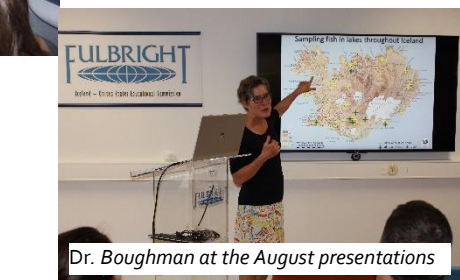
PARTNERSHIP AWARD GOES TO LEADER IN SEARCH AND RESCUE

The Fulbright Commission is entrusted with choosing the recipient of the Partnership Award, which was established by Ambassador Charles Cobb. The award recognizes the achievements of an American who has made a significant contribution to promote US-Iceland relations and who has been a role model and leader. This year the Board selected Chris Long, the State of Washington's Coordinator of Search and Rescue Operations. Chris was nominated by his colleagues at ICE-SAR for the outstanding work he has done over the past 15 years to foster cooperation between US and Icelandic search and rescue professionals and volunteers. The US Embassy hosted a reception in Chris's honor on August 20th, with Chris's friends and colleagues in attendance, as well as many good friends of Fulbright and supporters of partnership between Iceland and the US.



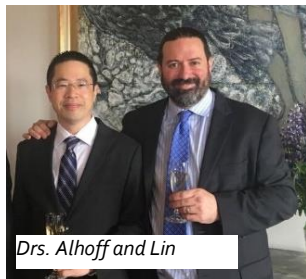
What else have we been up to?

Grantee enrichment events in the spring 2018 semester included a cooking class, a visit to the US Embassy, a visit to Bessastaðir to visit the President of Iceland and a visit to the Halldór Laxness Museum. 12 grantees presented their projects at events in May and August. Orientation was held in September.



Fulbright Specialists

Eight Fulbright Specialists visited Iceland in the spring semester and through the summer. In addition to Eileen Decker, who was hosted by UNAK, five Specialists were hosted by the University of Iceland: Dr. Barbara Laster from Towson University and Dr. Mariana Souto-Manning, from Columbia University both made second visits to the School of Education at the University of Iceland. Dr. Diana Katovich from Syracuse University was also hosted by the School of Education. Dr. Fritz Allhoff, from Western Michigan State University, and Dr. Patrick Lin, from California Polytechnic State University, were both



hosted by the Faculty of Political Science. Hólar University College hosted Dr. Brumby McLeod from the College of Charleston. Bifröst University hosted Dr. Craig Schreiber from Lenoir-Rhyne University



The ED gave a talk at Columbia University on Fulbright opportunities

EDUCATIONUSA ACADEMY

The Fulbright Commission is partnering with the US Embassy in Reykjavik to offer a new and exciting summer grant opportunity to Icelandic students who are in high school. We will sponsor 2 students next summer to attend the EducationUSA Academy Program, a pre-college academic enrichment program for international high school students offering specialized college preparatory content, college-level writing workshops, campus visits, and cultural activities. Students gain an insider's perspective on higher education in the United States while getting the chance to experience and enjoy campus life. 2019 host institutions include Boston University, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, Northwestern and 12 additional universities across the US.

During the 2-4 week program, students will engage in classroom study, have opportunities to improve their English skills, learn how to prepare a successful college application, make connections with peers and teachers, and participate in cultural activities that will give them a taste of American life.

The program is for 15-17 year old students. Fulbright Iceland will be advertising these grants later this fall, so please stay tuned to the Commission website and FB page!

JOIN US FOR THANKSGIVING!

The Fulbright Alumni Association will be hosting its annual Thanksgiving dinner on Saturday 17 November. Everyone who wants to enjoy a traditional American feast is welcome. Tickets go on sale soon and please note that this popular event has sold out in past years. So, stay tuned to the Commission FB page for further info and make sure to order tickets in good time.

Gobble, gobble!

ICELANDIC FULBRIGHT GRANTEES 2018-2019

Fulbright Scholar

- [Dr. Bryndís Björk Ásgeirsdóttir](#), Associate Professor of Psychology, Reykjavik University, hosted by Columbia University

Fulbright Arctic Initiative Scholar

- [Dr. Lára Jóhannsdóttir](#), Professor at the University of Iceland School of Business, hosted by Dartmouth College, University of Maine and University of S. Maine

Fulbright Fellows

- [Arnór Gunnar Gunnarsson](#), MA, History, Columbia University
- [Eva H. Baldursdóttir](#), LL.M., Law, University of Miami, Cobb Family Fellowship recipient
- [Eygló Höskuldsdóttir Viborg](#), MA Musical Composition, New York University
- [Kristján Theodór Sigurðsson](#), MSc, Mechanical Engineering, University of California, Berkeley

Summer Institute 2018

- [Ellen Geirsdóttir](#), US Institute for Student Leaders from Europe on Social Entrepreneurship at the University of Tennessee

US FULBRIGHT GRANTEES 2018-2019

Fulbright-NSF Arctic Research Scholars

- [Dr. Joseph Roman](#), Research Associate Professor of Biology, University of Vermont, hosted by the University of Iceland
- [Dr. Adam Smith](#), Postdoctoral Investigator at the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, hosted by University of Iceland
- [Dr. Rhonda Johnson](#), Professor of Public Health, University of Alaska, Anchorage, hosted by the University of Akureyri
- [Dr. M Jackson](#), Postdoctoral Researcher, Geography, University of Oregon, hosted by the University of Iceland

Fulbright-Ministry for Foreign Affairs Arctic Scholar

- [Dr. Nathan Reigner](#), Research Affiliate, Recreation & Tourism Science, University of Vermont, hosted by the University of Akureyri

Fulbright scholars

- [Ms. Julia Hechtman](#), Assistant Teaching Professor, Fine Arts, Northeastern University, hosted by Iceland University of the Arts
- [Dr. Harvey Milkman](#), Professor Emeritus of Psychology, Metropolitan State University of Denver, hosted by Reykjavik University

Fulbright Global Flex Scholar

- [Dr. Matthew Bowker](#), Assistant Professor of Biology, Northern Arizona University, hosted by the Agricultural University of Iceland

Fulbright Arctic Initiative

- [Ms. Nicole Kanayurak](#), North Slope Borough, Interdisciplinary Studies, hosted by the University of Iceland

Additional scholars are expected through the Fulbright Specialist Program and Inter-Country Travel Grant Program

Fulbright Fellows

- [Victoria Buschman](#), PhD research: Environmental Studies, Arctic Council -CAFF, Fulbright-NSF Arctic Research Grant
- [Grace Cesario](#), PhD research: Archaeology, Skagafjörður Heritage Museum & Stefansson Arctic Institute
- [Nicholas Robinson](#), PhD research: Geography, University of Iceland
- [Maxine Savage](#), Language and Literature, University of Iceland
- [Oliver Daliet IV](#), Medical Sciences, University of Iceland
- [Avery Bennett](#), Icelandic as a Second Language, University of Iceland, Fulbright/Icelandic Ministry of Education and Culture Joint Grant

JOIN US AT ARCTIC CIRCLE - MEET THE FULBRIGHT SCIENTISTS

Fulbright Iceland is organizing a breakout session at the annual Arctic Circle conference in Reykjavik. The Fulbright session will be on Friday 19 October at 17:00. 10 Fulbright Arctic scholars and fellows will briefly introduce their projects in 2 minutes. Then the meeting will break up into roundtables, where guests can engage with individual scholars, provide input, ask questions and discuss projects from varying perspectives and from the point of view of different disciplines. Last year's event was so much fun and valuable to both the scholars and the guests. Don't miss this opportunity. We hope to see you at Arctic Circle! **Friday 19 October at 17:00 in Háaloft.**

This newsletter is published by the Fulbright Commission in Iceland and is available online at www.fulbright.is

Editor-in-Chief: Belinda Theriault, Executive Director. Contributor: Randver Kári Randversson

Fulbright Commission, Hverfisgata 105, 101 Reykjavik, Iceland Tel: +354-551.0860

Facebook: Fulbright Commission Iceland www.youtube.com/user/FulbrightIceland

To unsubscribe from the newsletter, send an e-mail to: fulbright@fulbright.is