



ICELANDIC GRANTEES WITH THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION, SCIENCE & CULTURE, THE CHAIRMAN OF THE FULBRIGHT BOARD AND THE ED OF THE FULBRIGHT COMMISSION

Celebrating the new Fulbright brand identity

Message from Executive Director Belinda Theriault

Dear Fulbrighters and friends of Fulbright,

As many of you might have noticed in the past month, Fulbright has a new logo. While the classic logo has served the program well for over 70 years, the new logo allows us to better meet the needs of today's audience, members of which increasingly access Fulbright material through hand-held devices and social media.

The roll-out of the new logo took place in Washington, D.C. in late May. Fulbright Commission Directors from around the globe had an opportunity to be part of the launch event on Capitol Hill, which was also attended by members of the Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board, politicians, State Department representatives, Fulbright grantees and alumni, diplomats, and partners who work with us to administer the Fulbright Program.

The new brand identity is about more than just the visual. It is also about amplifying the Fulbright message, which remains so important in today's world. Fulbright is about creating lasting connections, learning about and from each other and working together towards common goals to make the world better and safer for all. During my time in Washington last month I was excited by the strong sense of commitment I felt from the



With ECA's Steve Money on Capitol Hill

various stakeholders, who are all dedicated to maintaining and strengthening the Fulbright Program, passionate about ensuring that Fulbright stays true to its core values, and working to ensure that at the same time Fulbright moves into the future to meet new challenges and opportunities.

Speaking of new opportunities, I want to tell you about an exciting and innovative Fulbright grant for a U.S. scholar in 2021-2022. Fulbright Iceland and Greece are offering a joint research grant, which will involve a comparative analysis on reacting to economic upheaval. The grant is open to a wide variety of fields, and you can read more in the Fulbright Catalog of Awards <https://awards.cies.org/>. Please check it out and pass it on to anyone who might be interested – we are currently accepting applications!

Finally, a big thank you to the Fulbright Alumni Association in Iceland, for inviting Pulitzer Prize winning author, and Fulbright Iceland alumna, Jane Smiley for a fabulous week in April, highlighting the value of Fulbright.

Belinda Theriault

Newsletter Iceland-US Fulbright Commission



JUNE 2019

ICELANDIC FULBRIGHT GRANTEES 2019-20

Fulbright Scholars

- Dr. Árni Heimir Ingólfsson, Research Scholar of Music & Manuscript Studies, Árni Magnússon Institute, hosted by Yale University
- Dr. Gísli Kort Kristófersson, Associate Professor of Nursing at the University of Akureyri, hosted by the University of Minnesota

Fulbright Arctic Initiative (cont'd grant)

- Dr. Lára Jóhannsdóttir, Professor at the University of Iceland School of Business, hosted by Dartmouth College

Fulbright Fellows

- Erna Vala Arnardóttir, DMA, Piano Performance, University of Southern California
- Ingvi Hrannar Ómarsson, MA, Education, Stanford University
- Kristján Páll Guðmundsson, PhD, History, Columbia University
- Sóley Kaldal, MAS, Global Affairs, Yale University

Summer Institute 2019

- Lenya Rún Taha Karim, US Institute for Student Leaders from Europe on Social Entrepreneurship, University of Tennessee

EducationUSA Academy 2019

- Elísa Sverrisdóttir, EducationUSA Academy, St. Cloud University
- Katrín Ósk Einarisdóttir, EducationUSA Academy, University of Wisconsin

A glimpse at Fulbright Iceland winter 2018



Fulbright Iceland at Arctic Circle in October



Alumni Association Thanksgiving dinner in November



Arctic Circle Fulbright dinner



Historic cemetery walk



Grantee final presentations in November



US grantees attend Christmas concert at Harpa and visit Althingi.



FULBRIGHT TIDBITS

- Congratulations to Fulbright Fellow Erlendur Sveinsson for receiving the Vimeo Staff Pick Award at Aspen Shortfest for his short film *Kanarí*. Erlendur received a Fulbright grant in 2014 for a Master's degree in filmmaking at Columbia University.
- Two-time U.S. Fulbright grantee to Iceland, Dr. M. Jackson published her second book, *The Secret Lives of Glaciers*, on January 15, 2019. The book examines the effects retreating glaciers in southeastern Iceland have on nearby communities and is the culmination of a decade of research chronicling climate change and its effects on communities and exploring glacial systems.
- Alissa Mello, U.S. Fulbright scholar to Iceland in 2018, is the lead editor of the newly published book *Women and Puppetry*, which is the first publication dedicated to the study of women in the field of puppetry arts. It includes critical articles and personal accounts that interrogate specific historical moments, cultural contexts, and notions of "woman" on and off stage.
- Fulbright alumnus Halldór Smárason (Manhattan School of Music, 2012-2014) recently finished recording six pieces for his first album to be released on the American Sono Luminus label in 2020. The pieces are performed by Siggí String Quartet, members of Elektra Ensemble as well as Fulbright alumni Geirprúður Ása Guðjónsdóttir, Gulli Björnsson and Tinna Þorsteinsdóttir.

A glimpse of Fulbright Iceland spring 2019

Reception in honor of Icelandic grantees on May 20



Grantee final presentations in May



Learning to make Icelandic pancakes



US Grantee visits to Bessastaðir and the U.S. Embassy



Jane Smiley with current grantees and the Chair of the Alumni Association at the EDs home.



FULBRIGHT SPECIALISTS

Three Fulbright Specialists visited Iceland in the fall of 2018 and spring semester of 2019. Dr. Kathie Erwin, (left) Associate Professor of Clinical Mental Health at Regent University arrived in October to develop training for geriatric group work at the faculty of Social Work at the University of Iceland. In November, Dr. Moussa Ayyash, (center) Associate Professor of Computer Science and Information Technology from Chicago State University was hosted by Reykjavik University to develop and taught a new course in cyber-security at the School of Computer Science. Dr. Sachin Shetty, (right) Associate Professor at Old Dominion University was hosted by the University of Iceland in March, to teach a course on cyber-security at the Department of Computer Science and develop research cooperation. Both Ayyash and Shetty were part of the Fulbright-NSF Cyber-Security and Critical Infrastructure grant program.



Continuing to exemplify the values of Fulbright

Bergljót Gyða Guðmundsdóttir received a Fulbright grant in 2011 to pursue master's and doctorate studies in Psychology at the University of Rhode Island. After completing her PhD. degree in 2016, she returned to Iceland and is now working as a psychologist at



the school service of the Breiðholt Service Center in Reykjavík. Bergljót Gyða is a member of the team behind the TOM (Tilsjón og Okkar Mál) Project, which won the 2018 IceUSA Alumni Association Small Grant Competition. We asked her to tell us a little bit about the project:

The TOM (Tilsjón og Okkar Mál) Project addresses the language and early literacy needs of preschool students in Breiðholt, a culturally, linguistically, and socio-economically diverse school district in Reykjavík, Iceland. Breiðholt Service Center, in collaboration with two playschools in the area,

Holt and Ösp, are offering school and home-based early intervention support to these students, using empirically based approaches, tailored to meet the unique needs of each family. In a nutshell, the TOM project allows early childhood education consultants to work with each student and their caregivers to support their language and literacy skills in their home, free of charge for families and schools, using innovative, research-based methods.

What is the main benefit of the project for those receiving the service?

Successful development of language and literacy skills in early childhood is critical for later academic, behavioral, social, and emotional functioning. Research indicates that preschool-home collaboration and continuity in language enrichment activities across school and home environments promotes positive student outcomes. Preliminary findings are positive and indicate that participating families are highly satisfied with the services they received, and that caregivers feel more empowered to support their children's language and literacy skills. Data collection is currently ongoing and the TOM Project Team anticipates following up with the children and their caregivers to monitor the long-term effects of the

intervention on participating children's gains in language and literacy skills.

How has the IceUSA Alumni Association Small Grant helped the project?

The IceUSA Alumni Association Small Grant has been invaluable. Not only does it help support and sustain the project financially, but it also serves as recognition of the importance and value of our work. Additionally, the grant will help us disseminate our findings, knowledge, and experience to other professionals in the field of early childhood education. We are incredibly grateful for the IceUSA Alumni Association Small Grant and look forward to sharing more positive results.

Finally, Bergljót Gyða noted how valuable the Fulbright grant has been for her:

Being a Fulbright grantee, and now alumna, is an honor and a privilege. The Fulbright grant afforded me a number of incredible opportunities during my graduate studies in the US. Since my return to Iceland in 2016, I've been fortunate enough to meet so many wonderful people via the Fulbright Commission as well as the Fulbright Alumni Association in Iceland. This experience truly is a gift that keeps on giving.

US FULBRIGHT GRANTEES 2019-20

Fulbright-NSF Arctic Research Scholars

- Dr. Michael Whitney, Associate Professor of Marine Sciences, University of Connecticut, hosted by the University of Iceland
- Dr. Adam Booth, Assistant Professor of Geology, Portland State University, hosted by the Icelandic Institute of Natural History
- Dr. Darren Larsen, Assistant Professor of Geology, Occidental College, hosted by the University of Iceland
- Dr. Skylar Young-Bayer, Postdoctoral Researcher, Fisheries, University of Maine, hosted by the Marine Freshwater Institute

Fulbright-Ministry for Foreign Affairs Arctic Scholar

- Dr. Lauren Fields, Foreign Affairs Specialist, Fisheries, NOAA, hosted by the University of Akureyri

Fulbright Scholars

- Dr. Jonathan Wilcox, Professor of English, University of Iowa, hosted by the University of Iceland
- Dr. Mary Hendrickson, Assistant Professor of Agriculture, University of Missouri, hosted by the Agricultural University of Iceland
- Dr. Barry Zellen, Senior Fellow, International Relations, Georgetown University, hosted by the University of Akureyri

Fulbright-NSF Cyber-Security and Critical Infrastructure Scholars

- Dr. Steve Chiu, Associate Professor of Electrical Engineering, Idaho State University, hosted by the University of Iceland
- Dr. Derek Doran, Associate Professor of Computer Science and Engineering, Wright State University, hosted by Reykjavík University

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

Fulbright Fellows

- Greta Wells, PhD research: Geography, University of Iceland, Fulbright-NSF Arctic Research Grant
- Adam Zimmer, PhD research: Anthropology, University of Iceland, Fulbright-NSF Arctic Research Grant
- Joshua Rivers, PhD research: Anthropology, CCP Games & University of Iceland
- Tiffany White, PhD research: Medieval Studies, Árni Magnússon Institute
- Nicholas Borbely, Icelandic as a Second Language, University of Iceland, Fulbright/Icelandic Ministry of Education and Culture Joint Grant

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