



VISIT WITH THE PRESIDENT AND FIRST LADY OF ICELAND AT BESSASTADIR, NOVEMBER 2016

Newsletter Iceland-US Fulbright Commission



DECEMBER 2016

Thank you all for a fabulous fall

Message from Executive Director Belinda Theriault



Dear Fulbrighters and friends of Fulbright,

There truly is never a dull moment at the Fulbright Commission. So much has happened since our newsletter last summer. For one thing, we moved into our new office in mid-September. The Commission was in the same place for 28 years, so this was a big deal. We hope that those of you who have not had an opportunity to visit us at the new location will do so when you are in the downtown area of Reykjavik. We are at Hverfisgata 105.

On the following page you can see some photos from the last few months, which will give you just a glimpse of what we've been up to. We welcomed new scholars and fellows from the U.S. in August/September, as well as Fulbright Specialists during the fall semester. We have had a number of grantee events throughout the fall, including annual orientation, a reception hosted by the U.S. Embassy PAO, sea swimming, a visit to meet the President of Iceland, final presentations of departing grantees, and a holiday concert. The Commission also organized a Fulbright breakout session at Arctic Circle. Finally, the Commission was honored to continue its administration of the Partnership Award.

The Commission has taken part in various outreach activities, including visits to

universities throughout Iceland, participation in university international days, and a visit to Savannah College of Art and Design. The Alumni Association in Iceland organized a get-together for outgoing Icelandic grantees in July, as well as their fabulous annual Thanksgiving fundraising dinner, an event that gets better every year and is developing a loyal following.

I had the great pleasure to participate in Fulbright Arctic Week in Washington, D.C. in late October, where all 17 Arctic Initiative scholars presented their work. The scholars did a fantastic job and both the State Department and CIES deserve credit for organizing such an impressive event.

Finally, I am happy to report that the Icelandic Ministry for Foreign Affairs and the Fulbright Commission recently renewed their MoU for 3 additional years for the Fulbright-MFA Arctic Scholar grant. This is great news.

We wish you a happy holiday and look forward to staying in touch in 2017, which will be our 60th anniversary year!

Belinda Theriault

WELCOME TO NEW COMMISSION BOARD MEMBERS



Three new members joined the Fulbright Board of Directors on October 1st 2016:

- Ambassador Hjalmar W. Hannesson received his master's degree in Political Science from the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, where he was a Fulbright fellow. He has had a long and distinguished career in the Icelandic Foreign Service and served as Ambassador to many countries, including the United States from 2009 to 2011. He was Permanent Representative to the UN in NYC from 2003 to 2009.
- Hulda Stefánsdóttir holds an MFA from the School of Visual Arts in New York. She is a distinguished artist who has had numerous exhibitions in major museums and galleries in Iceland and the US. She was formerly the MA program director and a professor at the Iceland Academy of the Arts.
- Stacey Katz has a degree in applied economics and management from Cornell University and an MBA from Reykjavik University. She is a qualified CPA. She has held various executive positions in the private sector and currently works at Marel as Director of Global Business Services.

A Glimpse of Fulbright Fall 2016



Fulbright Specialist Dr. Abiodun Akinwuntan at the University of Akureyri

The Commission/EducationUSA took part in International days at University of Iceland and RU. Below Board members Dr. Albert Vernon Smith and Matthew Horner with Fulbright scholar Dr. Stephanie Grocke.



Ambassador Cobb with Fellowship recipients Iris Björk and Elín Ósk



Banker and former Fulbright Commission Board Member Timothy Spanos, received the Partnership Award. With Ambassadors Barber and Cobb and the ED.



Fulbright Arctic Week in Washington D.C. US scholar to Iceland Gwen Holdmann and Icelandic scholar Dr. Bjarni Már Magnússon above.



Brian Beckmann, Master of Ceremonies in action with Rafflemeister Mummi

Fulbright Arctic by the Numbers

- 8 Nations
- 17 Scholars, 2 Co-Lead Scholars
- 12 Disciplines
Anthropology, Biological Sciences, Economics, Engineering, Environmental Sciences, Geography, Law, Political Science, Public Health, Sociology, Studio Art, Urban Planning
- 3 Thematic Working Groups, 4 Focal Areas
Water, Energy, Health and Infrastructure
- 18 Months

Logos for Fulbright Arctic Week, Institute of International Education, and Fulbright Commission are visible at the bottom.



Fulbright Alumni Thanksgiving dinner, November 19

60TH ANNIVERSARY – CALL FOR PHOTOS

The Fulbright Commission will celebrate its 60th anniversary in 2017. On February 23, we will celebrate the signing of the Fulbright Agreement in Iceland. We hope that many of our alumni will attend. US alumni who expect to visit Iceland at that time are asked to please let us know so we can make sure to send you an invitation. And please stay tuned to our Facebook page for anniversary news.

Also, if you have a photo from your Fulbright experience that you would like to include in the photo display which we plan to prepare for our February event, please send it to fulbright@fulbright.is by January 15 in jpeg format. Please write "anniversary photo" in the subject and include the name of the grantee and grant year, the names of anyone else in the photo (if applicable), and where the photo was taken. We would especially love to get photos from the early years of the program, but all photos are welcome.

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