FULBRIGHT Romania



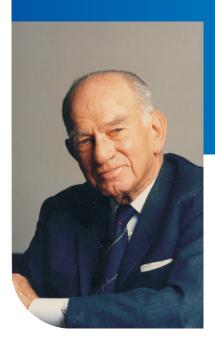
Annual Report **FISCAL YEAR 2020** October 1, 2019–September 30, 2020



FULBRIGHT Romania

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Senator J. William Fulbright (1905-1995)

"Educational exchange can turn nations into people, contributing as no other form of communication can to the humanizing of international relations."

The Fulbright Program is the U.S. government's flagship international educational and cultural exchange program, creating connections in a complex and changing world.

Led by the U.S. government in partnership with 160 countries worldwide, Fulbright offers programs for passionate and accomplished students, scholars, teachers, artists, and professionals of all backgrounds to study, teach, and conduct research, helping to build mutual understanding and find solutions to critical international concerns.

Fulbrighters enrich their educations, advance their careers, and make meaningful contributions to communities abroad and at home. As Fulbrighters, they join a network of thousands of alumni serving as leaders across the globe.

One connection at a time, Fulbright brings people together and moves nations towards a more peaceful world.

In Romania, the Fulbright Program has been present since 1960, bringing durable changes on Romania's path to progress and democratization, and profoundly influencing lives and professional careers, communities at large.

Since 1960, over 3400 Romanians and Americans participated in these exchanges, benefitting from funding for graduate studies, research, teaching, professional development, and cultural exchanges in general.

The Romanian-U.S. Fulbright Commission was inaugurated in May 1993 with the support of the American and Romanian Governments, following the bilateral agreement between the U.S. Department of State and the Romanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The Romanian-U.S. Fulbright Commission



The activities of the Commission are carried out in virtue of Law no. 50/2014 and supervised by its Board of Directors, a bi-national body with planning and coordinating responsibilities. The Romanian-U.S. Fulbright Commission board consists of ten members, five American citizens and five Romanian citizens. The Ambassador of the United States to Romania and the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Romania serve as honorary co-chairs and appoint the members of the board.

Honorary Co-Chairs:

Adrian Zuckerman, U.S. Ambassador to Romania Bogdan Aurescu, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Romania

U.S. Board Members

Nicolae-Victor Zamfir – President of the Board

General Director, National Institute for Physics and Nuclear Engineering "Horia Hulubei"

Scott A. Reese

Counselor for Public Affairs, U.S. Embassy

Merry Miller (until February 2020) Counselor for Public Affairs, U.S. Embassy

William J. O'Connor (starting August 2020)

Cultural Attaché, U.S. Embassy

Radu Florescu CEO, Cheil Centrade South East Europe

Monica Cure Author and Fulbright Alumna

Romanian Board Members

Daniela Gîtman (starting April 2020)

Secretary of State, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

FULBRIGHT Romania

Dan Neculăescu (until April 2020)

Secretary of State, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Adrian Curaj

General Director, The Executive Agency for Higher Education, Research, Development and Innovation Funding (UEFISCDI)

Ligia Deca

Presidential Adviser, Department of Education and Research

Alexandru Mihai Ghigiu

Vice-Rector, National School of Political Studies and Public Administration

STAFF

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- Executive Director Romanian Program Director American Program Director Financial Manager Program Assistant Educational Adviser Educational Adviser Building Custodian



The Romanian-U.S. Fulbright Commission offers exchange opportunities to Romanian citizens – scholars, students and professionals - for study, research and teaching in the United States, in any subject and at any accredited U.S. higher education institution. Grants are awarded through open merit-based competitions supervised by binational panels.

Candidates may apply in any field except clinical disciplines, allowing for the specific timeline of each competition for Romanian citizens. Grant duration varies from three months to one academic year, depending on the category of grant the applicant wants to apply for.

The Fulbright Grants

Grants for Romanian Citizens

- The Fulbright Student Program awards for Romanian graduate students for master's study or research at accredited U.S. universities;
- The Fulbright Visiting Scholar Program awards for Romanian professors, researchers and professionals who have a doctoral degree or equivalent (certified) to conduct research and/or lecture at accredited U.S. universities.
- The Fulbright-RAF Visiting Scholar Award dedicated to Romanian academics from technical universities/faculties who wish to carry out a semester-long fellowship in residence at the University of Rochester – AIN Center for Entrepreneurship.
- The Hubert H. Humphrey Fellowship Program grants for mid-career professionals with demonstrated leadership potential, public service commitment and the capacity to take full advantage of a self-defined program of independent study at a leading U.S. university.
- Fulbright Teaching Excellence and Achievement Program – Media Literacy Cohort: a six-week professional development program for secondarylevel school teachers;
- Study of the U.S. Institutes for European Student
 Leaders a five-week academic program for undergraduate students;
- The Fulbright Scholar-in-Residence Program offers opportunities to non-U.S. visiting scholars from different countries, including Romania, to teach at U.S. colleges and universities for one or both semesters of one academic year.
- The Fulbright Schuman Program offers scholarships to European citizens for research or lecture in the United States on a topic that is relevant to US-EU relations, EU affairs/policy, or EU institutions and shows relevancy to at least two EU member states.

ROMANIAN GRANTEES 2019–2020

FULBRIGHT VISITING SCHOLAR PROGRAM

Veronica M. ANGHEL

Home University: University of Bucharest/Institute for Human Sciences Vienna Host University: Stanford University Field: Political Science/Government Type of Grant: Research

Delia Cristina BALAS

Home University: Babeş-Bolyai University of Cluj-Napoca Host University: University of Georgia Field: Communications/Media Type of Grant: Research

Adina Camelia BLEOTU

Home University: University of Bucharest Host University: UMass Amherst Field: Linguistics Type of Grant: Research

Paul Dacian BUZILĂ

Home University: University of Bucharest Host University: Rice University Field: Linguistics/Cognitive Sciences Type of Grant: Research

Laura Maria IRIMIEȘ

Home University: Babes-Bolyai University of Cluj-Napoca Host University: Arizona State University Field: Communications/Journalism Type of Grant: Research

Valentina IVAN (deferred until 2021-2022)

Home University: Bucharest University of Economic Studies Host University: Northern Illinois University Field: Public Policy Analysis/Energy Policies Type of Grant: Research

Vlad Andrei LĂZĂRESCU

Home University: Babeş-Bolyai University of Cluj-Napoca Host University: University of Florida Field: Archaeology Type of Grant: Research

Titus Cristian MAN

.

Home University: Babeș-Bolyai University of Cluj-Napoca Host University: Texas Tech University Field: Environmental Sciences/Remote Sensing Type of Grant: Research

Iulian Alexandru MURARU

Home University: "Alexandru Ioan Cuza" University of Iași Host University: New York University Field: Political Sciences/Holocaust Studies Type of Grant: Research

Sorin NISTOR

.

Home University: University of Oradea Host University: Massachusetts Institute of Technology Field: Environmental Sciences/Geodesy Type of Grant: Research

Alexandru PALER

Home University: Linz Institute of Technology/Transilvania University of Brașov Host University: The University of Texas at Dallas Field: Computer Engineering and Design Type of Grant: Research

Meda Veronica POP

Home University: Babeş-Bolyai University Cluj-Napoca Host University: Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey—New Brunswick Field: Social Work/Sexuality Education Type of Grant: Research

Caterina PREDA

Home University: University of Bucharest Host University: University of Texas at Austin Field: Political Sciences/Comparative Politics Type of Grant: Research

Mihaela TOFAN

Home University: "Alexandru Ioan Cuza" University of Iași Host University: The New York University Field: Tax Law Type of Grant: Research

Mihai Alexandru UDRESCU-MILOSAV

.

Home University: Politehnica University of Timișoara Host University: Carnegie Mellon University Field: Computer Engineering Type of Grant: Research

Diana Camelia YUKSEL

.

Home University: University of Bucharest Host University: Harvard University Field: Philosophy/Korean Studies Type of Grant: Research

Romanian Grantees

FULBRIGHT-RAF VISITING SCHOLAR AWARD

Ovidiu BORDEAN

Home University: Babeş-Bolyai University of Cluj-Napoca Host University: University of Rochester, Rochester, NY – AIN Center for Entrepreneurship Field: Entrepreneurship Type of Grant: Research/Academic Training

Andrei BORSA

Home University: University of Agricultural Sciences and Veterinary Medicine Cluj-Napoca Host University: University of Rochester, Rochester, NY – AIN Center for Entrepreneurship Field: Entrepreneurship Type of Grant: Research/Academic Training

Alexandru BUTEAN

Home University: University "Lucian Blaga" of Sibiu Host University: University of Rochester, Rochester, NY – AIN Center for Entrepreneurship Field: Entrepreneurship Type of Grant: Research/Academic Training

FULBRIGHT STUDENT PROGRAM

Anda Ligia BELC

Home University: Politehnica University of Timișoara Host University: Oregon State University Field: Civil Engineering/Transport Infrastructure Type of Grant: Research

Olga BODRUG

Home University: Bucharest University of Economic Studies Host University: Texas A&M University, College Station Field: International Affairs Type of Grant: Master's

Cristina FENISER

Home University: Technical University Cluj-Napoca, Alba Iulia Branch Host University: University of Rochester, Rochester, NY – AIN Center for Entrepreneurship Field: Entrepreneurship Type of Grant: Research/Academic Training

Dumitru TRANCA

Home University: Politehnica University of Bucharest Host University: University of Rochester, Rochester, NY – AIN Center for Entrepreneurship Field: Entrepreneurship Type of Grant: Research/Academic Training

Ovidiu Aurel GHIUȚĂ

.

Home University: "Stefan cel Mare" University of Suceava Host University: University of Rochester, Rochester, NY – AIN Center for Entrepreneurship Field: Entrepreneurship Type of Grant: Research/Academic Training

Oana Alexandra CHIRILĂ

Home University: University of Bucharest Host University: Lehigh University, Pennsylvania Field: Islamic Civilization/ Cultural Studies Type of Grant: Research

Tatiana COJOCARI

Home University: University of Bucharest Host University: Georgetown University Field: International Relations/Post-Soviet Studies Type of Grant: Research

2019–2020

FULBRIGHT STUDENT PROGRAM (cont.)

Nicolae Ciprian CREȚU

Home University: University of Bucharest Host University: University of Florida Field: Archaeology Type of Grant: Research

Dan Vlad DRUȚĂ

.

Home University: University of Bucharest/Babeş-Bolyai University of Cluj-Napoca Host University: Harvard University Field: Law Type of Grant: Master's

Elena Andreea GANCEA

.

Home University: University of Bucharest/ University of Paris 1 Pantheon-Sorbonne Host University: Columbia University Field: Law Type of Grant: Master's

Mihai Alexandru GOLU

Home University: Politehnica
University of Bucharest
Host University: Arizona State
University
Field: Aviation Management and
Human Factors
Type of Grant: Master's

Oana Cosmina MIHALACHE

Home University: National
University of Political Studies
and Public Administration
Host University: Columbia
University
Field: Political Sciences/Military
Interventions
Type of Grant: Research

Alexandru MIRONESCU

Home University: I.L. Caragiale National University of Theatre and Film, Bucharest Host University: Savannah College of Art and Design Field: Film Studies/Production Type of Grant: Master's

Nicusor NECULA

Home University: "Alexandru Ioan Cuza" University of Iași Host University: California Institute of Technology Field: Geology Type of Grant: Research

Mihai-Alexandru PETRE

Home University: University of Bucharest Host University: University of Minnesota, Twin Cities Field: Chemistry Type of Grant: Master's

Andreea Cristina SFIA

.

Home University: Politehnica University of Bucharest Host University: Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University Field: Aeronautics Type of Grant: Master's

Ioan Daniel ŞERBAN

.

Home University: University of Bucharest Host University: University of Massachusetts, Boston Field: Geography/Environmental Studies Type of Grant: Research

HUBERT H. HUMPHREY FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

Georgiana GROZESCU

Host University: American University, Washington DC Home Institution: High Court of Cassation and Justice, Bucharest Field: Law and Human Rights

FULBRIGHT TEACHING EXCELLENCE AND ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM

Andrea GÁL

Home Institution: "George Coșbuc" National College, Cluj-Napoca Host Institution: Kent State University Field: 21st Century Classroom Media Literacy

Ana-Maria GHIOC

Home Institution: "Grigore Moisil" National College, Bucharest Host Institution: Kent State University Field: 21st Century Classroom Media Literacy

Nadina-Carmen NICOLICI

Home Institution: "Lorin Salagean" Technical High School, Drobeta Turnu Severin Host Institution: Kent State University Field: 21st Century Classroom Media Literacy

Iuliana VIZAN

Home Institution: "George Calinescu" Theoretical High School, Constanta Host Institution: Kent State University Field: 21st Century Classroom Media Literacy



Fulbright offers programs for passionate and accomplished U.S. students, scholars, teachers, artists, and professionals of all backgrounds to study, teach, and conduct research in Romania, helping to build mutual understanding between our two countries and to find solutions to critical international concerns.

Applications in any field are welcome. According to the policies established by the Romanian Fulbright Board, the program tries to reach as many local universities and students as possible. The Commission strongly encourages grantees to travel to other university centers to give public talks and lectures, attend conferences and participate in American Corners events and other similar activities.

The Fulbright Grants

Grants For American Citizens

- The U.S. Scholar Program is designed for American academics, professionals, and artists with a Ph.D. (or other terminal degree) interested to teach, conduct research and/or undertake professional or artistic projects in Romania in a wide variety of academic and professional fields. The U.S. Scholar Program also includes "Hyphenated" grants, which are partly sponsored by Romanian universities and mirror both the interest in the Fulbright program of higher education institutions and the intention of the Fulbright Commission to increase the number of grants it offers. In 2019-2020, we had 5 Fulbright hyphenated grants with: University of Bucharest, Babeș-Bolyai University of Cluj-Napoca, Bucharest University of Economic Studies, "Ovidius" University of Constanța, and Transilvania University of Brașov.
- The U.S. Student Program offers recent graduates, post-graduate candidates, professionals and artists an opportunity to teach or conduct research in Romania, through English Teaching Assistant (ETA) Awards or Research Awards. Candidates at all degree levels will be considered, but preference is given to advanced graduate students who are interested in international education and teaching. The Commission accepts proposals in all disciplines.
- The Fulbright Specialist Program (FSP) promotes linkages between U.S. academics and professionals and their counterparts at host institutions in Romania. The program is designed to award grants to qualified U.S. faculty and professionals, in select disciplines, to engage in short-term collaborative projects at host institutions which initiate these projects. To participate in the program, host institutions must develop and submit project proposals, and U.S. experts must apply to join the Fulbright Specialist Roster.

American Grantees 2019–2020

FULBRIGHT SCHOLARS

Paul GARDNER

Home University: Luther College, Iowa Host University: West University of Timișoara Field: Political Studies

Michael HARKIN

Home University: University of Wyoming Host University: Babeş-Bolyai University of Cluj-Napoca Field: Anthropology

Mary Claire HEFFRON

Home University: Wright Institute, CA Host University: Babeş-Bolyai University of Cluj-Napoca Field: Psychology

HsiuYueh Sonya HSU

Home University: University of Louisiana at Lafayette Host University: West University of Timișoara Field: Information Sciences

Mark POWELL

Home University: Appalachian State University, NC Host University: Ovidius University, Constanța Field: Reading America

Maria RYBAKOVA

Home University: New Europe College Host University: "Alexandru Ioan Cuza" University of Iași Field: Philosophy, Literature

Cristina STANCIU

Home University: Virginia Commonwealth University Host University: "Alexandru Ioan Cuza" University of Iași Field: American Studies

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Alexandra TIPEI

Home University: McGill University, Montreal Host University: University of Bucharest Field: History

Laura WEST

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Home University: University of North Georgia Host University: West University of Timișoara Field: Arts

Scott WILLIAMSON

Home University: Washington and Lee University Host University: West University of Timișoara Field: Music

FULBRIGHT-UNIVERSITY OF BUCHAREST GRANTS

Diana GEORGESCU

Home University: University College, London Host University: University of Bucharest Field: History

FULBRIGHT-BUCHAREST ACADEMY OF ECONOMIC STUDIES AWARD

Bang Nam JEON

Home University: Drexel University, PA Host University: The Bucharest University of Economic Studies Field: Business

FULBRIGHT-UNIVERSITATEA BABEŞ-BOLYAI, CLUJ-NAPOCA AWARD

Kelly MOFFETT

Home University: Northern Kentucky University Host University: Babeş-Bolyai University of Cluj-Napoca Field: Creative Writing

FULBRIGHT-OVIDIUS UNIVERSITY OF CONSTANTA AWARD

Thomas John PRESTON

Home University: Washington State University - Pullman Host University: Ovidius University of Constanța Field: Creative Writing

FULBRIGHT-TRANSILVANIA UNIVERSITY OF BRAȘOV AWARD

Cristina SABLIOV (deferred until 2021-2022)

Home University: Louisiana State University System Host University: Transilvania University of Brașov Field: Engineering

American Grantees 2019-2020

FULBRIGHT STUDENTS

Andrea BURTON

Home University: Oregon State University, OR Host University: Ovidius University, Constanța Field: English Teaching Assistantship

Janaki CHALLA

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Home University: New York University Host University: West University of Timișoara Field: English Teaching Assistantship

Allen CHEN

Home University: Occidental College, CA Host University: University of Bucharest Field: English Teaching Assistantship

Stefania COTEI

Home University: George Washington University Host University: Transilvania University of Brașov Field: English Teaching Assistantship

Colin CUTLER

Home University: University of North Carolina, Greensboro Host University: "Lucian Blaga" University of Sibiu Field: English Teaching Assistantship

Claire HUNGAR

Home University: University of Virginia, VA Host University: Ștefan cel Mare University of Suceava, Vasile Goldiș Western University of Arad Field: English Teaching Assistantship

Adrian Sorin IORDACHE

Home University: University of South Florida, Tampa Host University: National University of Music, Bucharest Field: Music Training

Meghan JUSCZAK

Home University: University of Delaware, DE Host University: University of Baia Mare, University of Oradea Field: English Teaching Assistantship

Brian KAVANAUGH

Home University: Cranbrook Academy of Art, MI Host University: National University of Arts, Bucharest Field: Education

Kyle James KOSTENKO

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Home University: University of North Carolina, Greensboro Host University: National University of Music, Bucharest Field: Music

Ciara MALAUGH

Home University: University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa Host University: "Dunărea de Jos" University of Galați Field: English Teaching Assistantship

Michael Parisi MERCADO

Home University: University of Iowa Host University: Babeș-Bolyai University of Cluj-Napoca Field: Public Health

Naomi MOSER

Home University: Cranbrook Academy of Art, MI Host University: University of Bucharest Field: Theater and Performative Arts

Carson PARENT

Home University: Arizona State University, AZ Host University: University of Craiova Field: English Teaching Assistantship

Elliot SCHWARTZ

.

Home University: Carleton College, MN Host University: "Alexandru Ioan Cuza" University of Iași Field: English Teaching Assistantship

Elizabeth Grace WIITA

.

Home University: Barnard College, NY **Host University: P**etroleum-Gas University, Ploiești **Field:** Biofuel

FULBRIGHT SPECIALISTS

Scott CROSSLEY

Home University: Georgia State University Host University: Politehnica University of Bucharest Field: Computer Science and Information Technology

.

Babak FAHIMI

Home University: The University of Texas at Dallas Host University: Politehnica University of Timisoara Field: Engineering Education

Calvin MCCLINTON

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Home University: The McClinton Foundation Host University: National University of Theatrical Arts and Film "I.L. Caragiale" Bucharest Field: American (U.S.) Studies

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To Be Established

Home University: TBE Host University: University of Bucharest Field: Communication and Journalism

To Be Established

Home University: TBE Host University: West University of Timișoara Field: Education

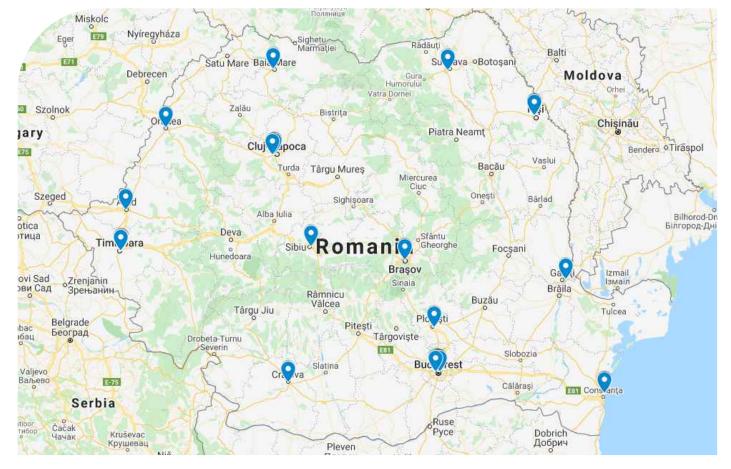


RO and US Grantees: Geographical Distribution

Geographic distribution of the 2019-2020 Romanian Fulbright Grantees (by U.S. host universities):



Geographic distribution of the 2019-2020 U.S. Fulbright Grantees (by Romanian host universities):



Fulbright Exchanges in Numbers AY 2019-2020



GRANTEES BY CATEGORY

Romanian

	16 Scholars
6	Fulbright-RAF Scholars
	14 Students
1	H.H.Humphrey

4 Fulbright TEA

American

- **15** Scholars
- **6** Student researchers
 - **10** ETAs
- **5** Specialists

1960-2020

3425

FULBRIGHT GRANTEES 2201 Romanian Grantees

1224 American Grantees

COMMISSION UPDATES

New Executive Director at the Romanian-U.S. Fulbright Commission



In January 2020, the Romanian-U.S. Fulbright Commission announced the appointment of Professor Mircea Dumitru as the new Executive Director of the Commission. He succeeded Professor Rodica Mihăilă, who retired from the Commission at the end of December 2019.

Professor Mircea Dumitru was the Rector of the University of Bucharest between 2011 and 2019 and held the position of Minister of Education and Scientific Research from July 2016 to January 2017. He is a member of the Romanian Academy since 2014 and a Fellow of Academia Europaea since 2019.

Professor Dumitru was a Fulbright grantee at Tulane University (1993-1994) where he received his PhD in Philosophy in 1998 with a dissertation on incompleteness in modal logic.

He is also a Doctor in Philosophy of the University of Bucharest. He authored over 50 journal papers and chapters on topics such as modal logic, theories of truth, meaning, rationality, contemporary logic, realism, essentialism, and relativism.



In Spring 2020, the Romanian-U.S. Fulbright Commission together with Fulbright Commissions based in Poland, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Hungary, and Slovak Republic announced the competition for a new program addressed to academics in the field of cybersecurity. Originally designed as an in-person study visit in the U.S., the program was redesigned in a hybrid format due to the restrictions imposed by Covid-19. The program will combine a virtual component, including 16 online meetings extended over a 4month period (March-June 2021), with an in-person visit to the U.S. East Coast.

The program, funded by the U.S. Department of State, will be carried out in partnership with two U.S.-based entities: World Learning and Marymount University.

The Annual American Studies Student Conference

On March 10, 2020, the Fulbright Commission had the pleasure of hosting once again the annual American Studies Student Conference organized by the English Department of the University of Bucharest. This year's edition saw a significant increase in the number of participants, with more than 20 participants, several of whom came from around the country, from Timisoara to Iasi, Constanta and Brasov. The quality of the papers and the dynamic presentation style were highly appreciated by the audience, while the conference jury had the difficult task of nominating only one paper - written and presented by Ruxandra Gîdei,



2nd year English major – as the winner of the "Dan Grigorescu" Award for the best American Studies conference paper.

The 42nd Annual Conference of the Fulbright Association

The Fulbright community gathered in Washington D.C. from October 24 to 26, 2019 for the Fulbright Association's 42nd Annual Conference. The conference titled "Connecting Minds and Hearts for Global Change" included two full days of sessions, as well as postconference workshops.

The sessions highlighted collaborative initiatives and research aimed at improving lives and forming communities. The Romanian-U.S. Fulbright Commission was represented by Executive Director Rodica Mihăilă. Kimber Guinn, 2018-2019 Fulbright ETA in Romania, also participated in the Fulbright Association Conference with a poster presentation titled "Lose the Lecture: Hands-On Literature."

The poster showcased the top 3 activities she used in her classes to bring literature and English to life and make it more interesting to students.

Specifically, Kimber discussed her re-enactment of "The Lottery" by Shirley Jackson which she presented in a couple of other ETA's classrooms in Romania.



Grant-supporting

Fulbright Orientation for 2019-2020 U.S. Fulbright Grantees



At the beginning of the academic year, the Romanian-U.S. Fulbright Commission organized the Orientation Seminar in honor of the 2019-2020 American Fulbright grantees – Scholars, Student Researchers and ETAs – just arrived in Romania.

The group of American Fulbright grantees consists of professors who are teaching and performing research in the fields of Social Work, History, American Studies, Political Science, Music & Arts, Psychology, Business and Engineering at universities in Bucharest, Cluj-Napoca, Iași, Brașov, Constanța, Timișoara,



as well as student researchers and ETAs in the above mentioned cities, but also in Craiova, Sibiu, Suceava, Arad, Oradea, Baia Mare and Galati.

During the Orientation seminar on October 3, the group was officially welcomed by U.S. and Romanian officials: Merry Miller, Counselor for Public Affairs at the U.S. Embassy, Daniela Voinea, Department of Public, Cultural and Scientific Diplomacy, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Melissa Sokol, Academic Exchange Specialist at the U.S. Department of State, Paula A. Tufis, Fulbright Alumna, and Rodica Mihăilă, Executive Director of the



Fulbright Commission. The grantees also received information on different topical subjects from U.S. Embassy experts. U.S. and Romanian alumni of the program presented on subjects such as "Adjusting to Romanian academic life and culture" and "Living in Romania – Emotional Tools for Shaping the Fulbright Experience."

In the evening, a reception was organized for our guests at *Casa Oamenilor de Știință*. On October 4, the group visited Peleș and Pelișor Castles in Sinaia.

Pre-Departure Orientation for 2019-2020 Romanian Fulbright Grantees



On June 27, 2019, the Romanian-U.S. Fulbright Commission hosted its Predeparture Orientation Seminar devoted to the 2019-2020 Romanian Fulbright grantees. The event started with a series of welcome speeches by distinguished guests representing the U.S. Embassy in Romania, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Fulbright Board of Directors and the alumni community.

The participants also had the opportunity to interact with representatives of the Consular Section of the U.S. Embassy Bucharest who provided specific details and advice on J visas. Romanian Alumni and U.S. Fulbright Scholars participated in several panel discussions, offering practical information to the current grantees starting their U.S. Fulbright experience in the coming months. The workshop "The ABCs of emotional resilience: how to soothe and challenge yourself in a new environment", which concluded the Orientation, offered quidance and practical tips to all the students and scholars preparing for their forthcoming departure to the U.S.

Activities

Winter Orientation and Mid-Term Seminar for U.S. Fulbright Grantees

On February 20, 2020, the Romanian-U.S. Fulbright Commission organized its traditional Orientation Seminar devoted to the American Fulbright grantees present in Romania for the academic year 2019-2020 and to greeting the newly arrived U.S. Fulbright Scholars. The seven new Fulbright grantees were welcomed by U.S. and Romanian high officials, and received information on different topical subjects, including consular, security, political, economic and health briefings, from U.S. Embassy experts. Romanian and U.S. alumni of the program briefed the new grantees on adjusting to Romanian academic life and culture, on adapting to the teaching and research environment in Romanian universities.



The entire group of U.S. grantees then participated in the mid-term seminar, a roundtable discussion in which they shared their experience after the conclusion of the first semester teaching and/or doing research in Romania. In the evening, the U.S. Fulbright grantees participated in the Reception organized at *Casa Oamenilor de Ştiinţă*, where they were welcomed by H.E. Adrian Zuckerman, U.S. Ambassador to Romania, who recently assumed



his duties in Romania and was present for the first time in a Fulbright event. The event was attended by a large number of U.S. and Romanian officials, Romanian alumni and friends of the program.

On the second day of the event, February 21, the group participated in a Bucharest City tour including visits to the Palace of Parliament and the National Museum of Art.

Winter Holidays Celebrations 2019



On December 12, the Romanian-U.S. Fulbright Commission organized its Winter Holidays Reception at *Casa Oamenilor de Știință*, in the presence of representatives of the U.S. Embassy, of the Romanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Fulbright Board of Directors, as well as U.S. Fulbright grantees, Romanian alumni and friends of the program.

On this occasion, Professor Nicolae-Victor Zamfir, President of the Fulbright Board of Directors, awarded the Honorary Title of Fulbright Director Emeritus to Prof. Rodica Mihăilă in recognition of her outstanding contribution to the Fulbright Program in Romania and to the cultural and educational exchanges between Romania and the United States of America. Ms. Abigail Rupp, Deputy Chief of Mission at the U.S. Embassy, thanked and congratulated Prof. Rodica Mihăilă for the leadership of the Romanian-U.S. Fulbright Commission.

Ms. Rupp handed Prof. Mihăilă a certificate of appreciation signed by Ms. Marie Royce, Assistant Secretary of State for Educational and Cultural Affairs, U.S. Department of State, "in recognition of [...] seven years of service as Executive Director of the Romanian-U.S. Fulbright Commission."

Fulbright Educational Advising Center (FEAC-EducationUSA)

ACTIVITY HIGHLIGHTS

1. Outreach

While our outreach efforts were hindered in the context of the Covid-19 pandemic, especially during the countrywide lockdown, the FEAC-EducationUSA team managed to take part in a number of direct outreach activities in the last quarter of 2019, acquainting an average 800 prospective applicants with the opportunities afforded by the U.S. higher education system and the advising services and generous resources awaiting them at FEAC-EducationUSA.

These included participating in a major university fair and in the International Study Day project and visiting high schools and universities in Bucharest and elsewhere, in order to present opportunities to study in the U.S. and the advising services provided by FEAC-EducationUSA.

Throughout the later half of FY2020 our outreach efforts were conducted exclusively via online means, which enabled us to continue to promote our programs to students across the country despite the problematic situation.



Fulbright ETAs and FEAC Advisers Connect with High Schoolers and Students in Craiova

a) University Fairs

We reached an average **250** prospective undergraduate and graduate students through our participation in the 2019 Fall edition of the **Romanian International University Fair/RIUF** in Bucharest.

We received significant positive feedback and several of the visitors voiced an interest in availing themselves of our services and taking part in future events hosted by FEAC-EducationUSA.

b) Outreach Sessions in High Schools and Universities

An average **80** undergraduate students and scholars were provided with valuable information on study and research opportunities in the US, FEAC-Education USA's services and resources, and the Fulbright Student Award during our on-site outreach sessions organized at the **Bucharest University of Economic Studies**, as well as the **University of Craiova**.

We also reached an average 100 high school students through a series of school visits in Bucharest, at "Sf. Sava" National College, "George Coşbuc" National Bilingual College and "I. L. Caragiale" National College.





c) International Study Day

The Romanian-U.S. Fulbright Commission and FEAC-EducationUSA also took part in the 2019 fall edition of International Study Day, with stopovers in Ploiești and Târgoviște, attended by an average 400 high schoolers. The International Study Day project (ISD) consists of a series of outreach presentations jointly organized by the British Council, Campus France, DAAD, and the Romanian-U.S. Fulbright Commission in various cities throughout the country, targeting the underserved student population.

d) Virtual Outreach

During the last two quarters of FY20, we relied exclusively on virtual outreach, via monthly webinars on topics ranging from "The Liberal Arts Model" to "5 Steps on U.S. Study". Guest speakers included U.S. Embassy PAO Scott Reese, EducationUSA REAC Katherine Scodova, and Fulbright ETA Allen Chen. An average 300 students from high schools in Bucharest, Pitești, Ploiești, and Târgoviște joined us online for these events.

2. Opportunity Funds Program

FEAC-EducationUSA kicked off the first Opportunity Funds program in Romania in the spring of 2016. In March 2020 we started working with our fifth cohort, made up of four highly promising high school students from Bucharest, Iași, Brașov, and Cluj-Napoca, who are currently receiving funding from EducationUSA to cover their application-related fees and personalized guidance every step of the way to boost their chances of admission. with a full scholarship, at a U.S. university.

Our cohort advising activities, including a more in-depth training for this year's Opportunity Funds cohort, were also conducted exclusively online.

The EducationUSA Opportunity Funds program assists highly qualified students who are likely to be awarded full financial aid from U.S. colleges and universities but lack the financial resources to cover the up-front costs of obtaining admission, such as testing or application fees.



Romanian-U.S. Fulbright Commission & EducationUSA at International Study Day Ploiești



Romanian-U.S. Fulbright Commission & EducationUSA at International Study Day Târgoviște



Romanian-U.S. Fulbright Commission Staff Connects with Students at ASE

FROM FULBRIGHT

"Romanian Revolution 1989"



U.S. Fulbright Scholar Scott Williamson co-produced and performed the role of Nicolae Ceausescu in the world premiere of the opera "Romanian Revolution 1989," written by U.S. composer Aaron Garber. The successful premiere took place on December 15, 2019 at the National Opera House in Timişoara and included 22 singing characters, and an orchestra and chorus, benefitting from the interpretation of professors and students from the School of Music and Theatre, West University of Timişoara.



Scott Williamson enjoys a genre-defying career as a creative artist, performer, director, teacher, curator and coach. In 2019-2020, Dr. Williamson was a Fulbright Scholar at West University of Timișoara. Read more about his career at:

www.scottmwilliamson.com/ about.

Romanian Fulbright Alumna is among the 2020 Pulitzer Prize Winners



Fulbright alumna Monica Ulmanu is part of the *Washington Post* team that won the 2020 Pulitzer Prize for Explanatory Reporting.

The prize was granted "for a groundbreaking series that showed with scientific clarity the dire effects of extreme temperatures on the planet."

The series of articles is available at: www.washingtonpost.com/ pr/2020/05/04/read-thewashington-post-storiesthat-won-2020-pulitzer-

<u>prize.</u>

Monica Ulmanu is a graphics editor for *The Washington Post*. She joined *The Post* in 2018 from the *Guardian* newsroom in London where she worked as a special projects editor. Previously, she worked on the graphics desk at *Thomson Reuters, Boston Globe*, and as an intern at *The New York Times*.

After graduating from the University of Bucharest, Monica received a Fulbright award and earned a master's degree in visual communication at the Hussman School of Journalism and Media, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

ALUMNI AND GRANTEES

Workshops on Art Education

Brian Kavanaugh, U.S. Fulbright researcher in the field of Art Education based in Bucharest, visited the University of Art and Design in Cluj-Napoca, where he delivered presentations and coordinated workshops focused on enabling increased diversity in art education and cultural production.

Brian is interested in how art pedagogy meant to facilitate creative growth for adults with disabilities can be communicated to an effective

Literary Expressions of Black Empowerment

On February 26, 2020, U.S. Fulbright Scholar Cristina Stanciu gave a lecture on "Literary Expressions of Black Empowerment" at the American Corner in Iași. The event, marking Black History Month, was addressed to 11th grade students from "Vasile Alecsandri" High School in lasi. Four of the students had just returned from the European Parliament in Strasbourg, and shared their experiences and discussions on human rights.

degree in a community with no precedent for such practices.

For the past 13 years, he has had a lead role in the creation and management of several studio art programs for adults with disabilities, particularly autism spectrum disorder.

During his Fulbright grant in Romania, Brian worked in collaboration with the National University of Arts in Bucharest and Autism Romania.







Cristina Stanciu is an Associate Professor of English at Virginia Commonwealth University, and this year she returned to her alma mater, "Alexandru Ioan Cuza" University of Iași, as a Fulbright Scholar.

Her publications are in American Studies and American Indigenous Studies.



FROM FULBRIGHT

Dr. Mary Claire Heffron talks to University of Bucharest students about approaches to early life trauma



On November 28, U.S. Fulbright Scholar Mary Claire Heffron, clinical psychologist and researcher with vast experience in treating childhood trauma, talked to University of Bucharest psychology students about the long-term effects of adverse childhood experiences and the theoretical underpinnings of the childparent psychotherapy model.

Dr. Heffron did an amazing tour de force by delivering three 2hour lectures to a large group of graduating seniors as well as to three cohorts of graduate students in the experiential psychotherapy and psychotraumatology programs.

The questions that the students asked touched on issues of prevention, treatment and social policy changes that affect individuals and groups faced with traumatic experiences, from historical trauma to postpartum depression.

Dr. Heffron's lectures highlighted a diverse range of manifestations of trauma, be it on the somatic, emotional, cognitive and/or behavioral level, ending with the immense cost that society pays for ignoring the impact and the prevalence of early life traumatic experiences.



Human Rights as a Foundation for Democracy

On December 10, U.S. Fulbright Scholar Maria Rybakova delivered a presentation addressed to Romanian students on "Human Rights as a Foundation for Democracy."

The event, organized by the U.S. Embassy to mark the Human Rights Day, took place at the American Corner in Iași, but Political Science and Anglo-American Studies students from the University of Craiova were also able to attend via digital video conference. Maria is the author of 5 novels, one novel-in-verse, and numerous short stories.

Her work appeared in Russian, English, German, Spanish, French and Bosnian. She studied Greek and Latin and obtained a Ph.D. in Classics from Yale University.

She taught at San Diego State University and, during her Fulbright grant, she was affiliated with the department of philosophy at "Alexandru Ioan Cuza" University of Iași.

ALUMNI AND GRANTEES

Ethnicity and Gender Debates

Ludmila Martanovschi, coordinator of the American Studies Program at Ovidius University, Constanța and Fulbright awardee twice, announced the release of a new collection of essays, "Ethnicity and Gender Debates. Cross-Readings of American Literature and Culture in the New Millennium" (Peter Lang Publishing), co-edited with Tatiani G. Rapatzikou, Artistotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece.

The volume is a truly international project, as testified by the background of the contributors: Barbara A. Nelson and Marianne B. Woods (USA); Carmen Birkle (Germany); Constantine Chatzipapatheodoridis and Angeliki Tseti (Greece); Elisabeth Boulot and Lea Stephan (France); Noelia Gregorio Fernández and Aitor Ibarrola-Armendariz (Spain); Raluca Andreescu, Ileana Jitaru and Iuliana Vizan (Romania); Jiachen Zhang (China); Pi-hua Ni (Taiwan).

Having been presented at the European Association for American Studies Conference held in Constanța, the essays "underline the vibrancy as well as complexity that characterizes the study of American literature and culture in the twenty-first century with regard to the exploration and understanding of ethnicity and gender". Tatiani G. Rapatzikou / Ludmila Martanovschi (eds.)

Ethnicity and Gender Debates



PETERLANG

U.S. Fulbrighter Visits School in the Village of Comloşu Mare

U.S. Fulbrighter Janaki Challa, affiliated with West University of Timișoara, visited a school in the village of Comloșu Mare, where she spent a day discussing with elementary and middle schoolers.

Here is Janaki's vivid description of the visit: "Today was such a special day for me in a little village on the Serbian-Romanian border, where my student is a school-teacher and invited me to spend a day with his elementary and middle schoolers. I was deeply moved by the wit, intelligence, kindness, and love in this little corner of the world, by the yet unmediated innocence, intuitiveness, and candidness





of children, by their refreshing abandon in expressing warmth. I'm reminded of a part in my favorite book, *The Little Prince*, where it read 'all grown-ups were once children... but only few of them remember it.' Thanks so much to everyone in Comloșu Mare for reminding me today."

Janaki has an academic background in philosophy and religion and has worked in U.S. media and journalism for several years before pursuing her Fulbright grant.

FROM FULBRIGHT



U.S. Fulbrighters to Romania Participate in EU-NATO Seminar

U.S. Fulbright Students Elli Wiita and Colin Cutler joined fellow Fulbrighters from around Europe for the annual EU-NATO seminar in Brussels and Luxembourg. Over four days, they explored and spoke with representatives of the U.S. Embassy in Luxembourg, the European Court of Justice, the European Commission, and NATO.

Representatives included an EU judge at the General Court, embassy public affairs officers, and experts in cybersecurity at NATO.

More details at: <u>https://fulbright.ro/eu-nato-</u> <u>seminar-2020/</u>

Tangible Utopias

Tangible Utopias, the most recent artistic project of Fulbright alumna loana Mischie, was selected for Cannes XR 2020, a 3-day online event dedicated to immersive entertainment (June 24-26, 2020). "Tangible Utopias is an exploratory VR experience immersing the viewer as a firstperson into an Odyssey of potential future city scenarios, inspired by the imagination of children worldwide. The project is a continuation of the transmedia universe entitled Government of Children - a



civic imagination-driven transmedia world (3D film, VR, web) that encourages children from all over the world to see themselves as leaders and to design their societal future." -<u>https://www.marchedufilm.co</u> <u>m/projects/tangible-utopias/</u>



International Education Week 2019: Fulbright ETA Connects with Students @ "I.L. Caragiale" National College

On November 18, in celebration of International Education Week, the Fulbright team accompanied Fulbright ETA Allen Chen for an event dedicated to the U.S. education higher education system, hosted by "Ion Luca Caragiale" National College in Bucharest. Allen delivered an engaging presentation on liberal arts colleges, also drawing on his personal experience as a graduate of Occidental College, and encouraged the participants to do a thorough research when working on their school selection.

ALUMNI AND GRANTEES

The Pandemic in Central and Eastern Europe



International Poetry Circle

To combat feelings of loneliness and isolation during this trying time, U.S. Fulbright alumna Tara Skurtu started the International Poetry Circle, a global initiative that invites poets and poetry lovers to record videos of themselves reading poems.

Since the start of this initiative, in mid-March, around 2000 videos, in over 15 languages, have been shared on all social media platforms, including videos by poets and public figures such as Ada Limón, Joyce Peseroff, Lloyd Schwartz, Maggie Smith, Saul Williams, Dolly Parton, David Gray, Hozier,

On Stanford Stardom

Veronica Anghel, 2019-2020 Fulbright Visiting Scholar at Stanford University, wrote about her Fulbright experience as a researcher in Political Science and her philosophy of "never entering a room you have nothing to learn from twice."

"To know I've made a good choice is to find myself being the least smart person in a room. In these few months at On July 7, 2020, Fulbright alumna Caterina Preda was one of the guest speakers during an online panel discussion on the topic of "The Pandemic in Central and Eastern Europe." The event, including representatives from Belarus, Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Romania, and Russia, was organized by the Guarini Institute for Public Affairs at John Cabot University, in collaboration with The Ohio State University and the Hungarian Europe Society.



Lana Del Rey, Rhett Miller, and many others. Read more at: <u>https://medium.com/@tara.skurtu/welcome-to-international-poetry-circle-fdaad724cac3.</u>

Stanford, I learned infinitely more than I could offer. The challenge now is to match the new standard and rise to the opportunity it presents." The complete article is available on Medium: https://medium.com/stanfordglobal-perspectives/onstanford-stardom-and-howto-be-the-least-smartperson-in-the-room-402a96fbccdf.



FROM FULBRIGHT

Americana Folk Music @ National Museum of Literature



On February 22, Fulbright ETA Colin Cutler played a concert of Americana folk music and original music at the National Museum of Literature in Bucharest. He was joined by Romanian artists Ana Maria Dumitru and Ovidiu Mihăilescu. This was Colin's second time playing at the museum, after a first concert with Bulgarian Fulbrighter Lilly Drumeva O'Reilly in December.

"It was an absolute pleasure," Colin wrote, "to share the songs, a bit about the history of the folk tunes, their diaspora via Scottish and Irish immigration and the African-American contribution of both musical styles, songs, and instruments like the banjo.



I am very grateful to Loreta Popa and the museum for having me back, everyone in the audience, and to Ovidiu and Ana Maria for joining me on stage!"

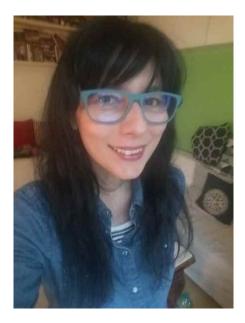
New Book by



Fulbright Alumna Rodica Melinda Șuțu

Dr. Rodica Melinda Şuţu, Fulbright alumna and associate professor in the Journalism Department at the University of Bucharest, published a new book titled Jurnalismul Convergent (Convergent Journalism), about the role of the journalists in the convergent media environment.

The official book signing and discussion with invited journalists and academics took place on November 23, 2019, at Gaudeamus Book Fair.



ALUMNI AND GRANTEES

Green Horses on the Walls

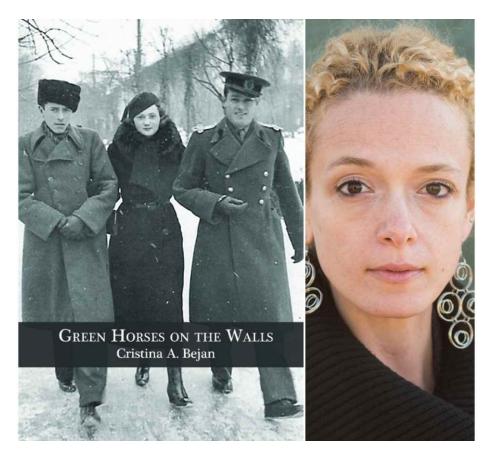
U.S. Fulbright Alumna Cristina A. Bejan released her second book, titled Green Horses on the Walls, in May 2020 (Finishing Line Press). About the volume, in Cristing's words:

"'Green Horses on the Walls' is a Romanian expression meaning to have impossible dreams. Writing these poems for me has been all about community and catharsis.

My poems deal with difficult topics (inherited trauma, crimes of communism, mental health, and sexual assault) and all are honest.

I hope my poems can give a sense of how out of darkness comes light and hope."

Cristina A. Bejan is a Fulbright and Rhodes Scholar. She has had fellowships at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum (USHMM), the Wilson



University. She received her Masters and DPhil in Modern History from the University

Center and Georgetown of Oxford and her BA in Philosophy (Honors) from Northwestern University, where she also studied theatre.

Sharing the Fulbright Experience

Michael Parisi-Mercado, PharmD Candidate at the University of Iowa, College of Pharmacy, and Fulbright Student Researcher at Babes-Bolyai University of Cluj-Napoca, participated in "Career Days", an event dedicated to the students from the Faculty of Political, Administrative and Communication Sciences.

On the occasion, Mike had the opportunity to talk about his Fulbright experience and to present the program as an opportunity for students to pursue upon graduation, presenting in detail the conditions and benefits of the program.



FULBRIGHT STORIES

After the conclusion of their grants, many of the 2019-2020 Romanian & U.S. Fulbrighters wrote about their academic, professional and cultural experiences.



"Although my Fulbright cohort underwent an experience that is (hopefully) unlike any other, I loved my time in Romania and learned so much. I am so grateful to the Fulbright Program and the Romanian Commission for this incredible opportunity that I will remember for the rest of my life."

Claire Hungar

U.S. Fulbright ETA, 2019-2020

"I did not get to give Columbia a proper farewell last spring, but I will do it now as a new year begins, and as I continue to unpack lessons from my time here. I arrived at Columbia full of curiosity and academic naiveté. Now I'm leaving with a collection of lessons yet to be fully revealed and distilled."



Oana Mihalache Fulbright Student Researcher, 2019-2020

Toblight Stodent Researcher, 2017 202



"I brought back enduring connections with colleagues and friends and a resolve to return to reconnect and continue to explore the hidden corners of Romania and maybe find my own special spot in a secluded 'sat.'"

Mary Claire Heffron U.S. Fulbright Scholar, 2019-2020

"The idea of experiencing one of the best education systems in the world (if not the best) could be quite overwhelming. But soon I realized that this is going to be a unique opportunity to learn as much as possible, to work like never before in my academic life. And I did just that."

> **Ciprian Crețu** Fulbright Student Researcher, 2019-2020



We're including below some excerpts, while the complete testimonials are available at: <u>https://fulbright.ro/alumni/.</u>



"My time in Romania is a stained-glass window of images-the rush of the Bucharest metro, [...] afternoons building furniture with a German expat named Brunhilde, the Moldovan ballerina and Ukrainian didgeridoo player who couchsurfed with me on their way through Sibiu, the attic windows staring like eyes over the squares and alleyways of Sibiu, and frosty evenings in the Piata Mare as Christmas music mingled with the scent of vin fiert—and I'm grateful for all of it."

Colin Cutler U.S. Fulbright ETA, 2019-2020

"If I were to sum up my Fulbright experience in just one word it would be 'whirlwind.' It will probably be years before I truly grasp the impact this journey has had on me and in my life."

Oana Chirilă Fulbright Student Researcher, 2019-2020





"In all, I feel fulfilled despite a truncated Fulbright experience. Thankfully, I got a taste of all my goals, in some fashion, before the pandemic. And it's only a matter of time before I come back to fully explore Romania and Europe, hand-in-hand with my fellow colleagues and friends."

Allen Chen U.S. Fulbright ETA, 2019-2020

"I was amazed by the culture of networking that brought together students, alumni, local businesses, non-profit organizations and investors. All the stakeholders with an interest in entrepreneurship united in a common effort to bridging opportunities for the entrepreneurial activities."

> **Ovidiu N. Bordean** Fulbright-RAF Visiting Scholar, 2019-2020



"My time as a Fulbrighter was about so much more than the research I was honored to work on. It was about building lasting relationships, learning about Romanian culture, and sharing my experiences with friends."

> **Elizabeth Wiita** U.S. Fulbright Student Researcher, 2019-2020

> > "The Fulbright-RAF scholarship has been one of the most rewarding experiences of my life and I am looking forward to sharing it in my home institution, 'Ștefan cel Mare' University of Suceava, together with my newly acquired entrepreneurial approach."

Ovidiu-Aurel Ghiuță

Fulbright-RAF Visiting Scholar, 2019-2020

"My experience at Kent State University as a Fulbright Teaching Excellence and Achievement Program (TEA) grantee was the greatest experience in my entire career as a teacher of English. The time spent there varied from intensive courses and seminars to insightful cultural events, from which I gained and further developed significant teaching skills for my field of study."

> **Iuliana Vizan** Fulbright TEA, Spring 2020

"My time as Fulbright grantee happily combined the research activities with cultural exchanges, U.S. academic life experiences and development of the professional networking within the vibrant New York City."

Mihaela Tofan Fulbright Scholar, 2019-2020

"To sum up, as a Fulbright-RAF visiting scholar I have been given the possibility to learn and develop myself not only in the entrepreneurial field, but also in my specialization field – computer engineering."

> **Dumitru-Cristian Tranca** Fulbright-RAF Visiting Scholar, 2019-2020





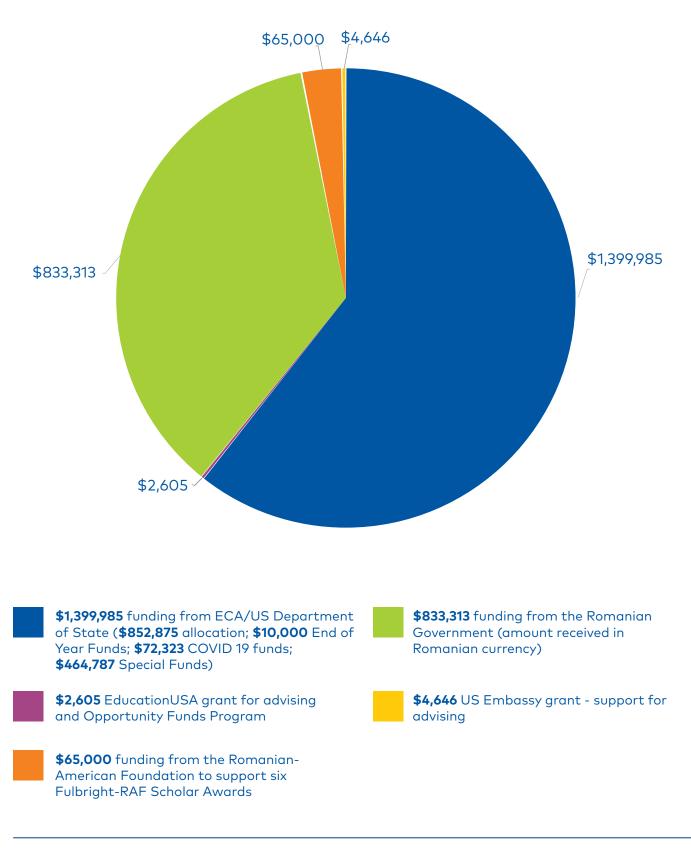






FY 2020 BUDGET

In FY 2020 the Commission's total budget amounted to \$2,305,549



Additional Support: \$73,000 (estimated amount) - In kind support from the Romanian Government (office space and utilities)





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