



FULBRIGHT Romania



Annual Report

FISCAL YEAR 2023

October 1, 2022–September 30, 2023





FULBRIGHT Romania

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Fulbright: A Global Network of Changemakers

Connecting people and places.
Advancing ideas.
Creating opportunity.

The Fulbright Program is the U.S. government's flagship international academic exchange program, designed to increase mutual understanding between the people of the United States and the people of other countries. Led by the U.S. government in partnership with more than 160 countries worldwide, Fulbright offers an expansive suite of international academic and cultural exchange opportunities for passionate and accomplished students, scholars, teachers, artists, and professionals of all backgrounds to study, teach, conduct research, pursue professional projects, exchange ideas, and contribute to finding solutions to shared international challenges.

The Fulbright Program is administered by the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, under policy guidelines established by the Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board, with the assistance of binational Fulbright Commissions in 49 countries, U.S. embassies in more than 100 other countries, and cooperating agencies in the United States. The Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board (FFSB), composed of 12 educational and public leaders appointed by the President of the United States, formulates policies for the administration of the Fulbright Program, establishes criteria for the selection of candidates, and selects candidates nominated for awards.

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, profoundly influencing lives and professional careers, and creating strong bonds between the peoples of Romania and the United States.

Since 1960, over 3600 Romanian and American accomplished students, scholars, teachers, artists, and

professionals of all backgrounds have had the opportunity to participate in these exchanges.

Inaugurated in May 1993 with the support of the American and Romanian Governments, the Romanian-U.S. Fulbright Commission celebrated in 2023 its 30th Anniversary, as well as its significant role in fostering the relationships between our cultures, societies, and countries.

Board of Directors

The activities of the Romanian-U.S. Fulbright 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 Commission's Board of Directors 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:

Kathleen Kavalec, U.S. Ambassador to Romania

Luminița Odobescu, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Romania

U.S. Board Members

Daniel Vișoiu, Esq., FCI Arb, B.C.S.

President of the Board (starting July 2023);
Registered Foreign Lawyer, Bucharest (Romania)
Bar, Member of Florida (USA) Bar

Peter Brown (starting June 2023)

Public Affairs Counselor (acting), U.S. Embassy

Timothy Gerhardson (until June 2023)

Public Affairs Counselor, U.S. Embassy

William J. O'Connor (until June 2023)

Cultural Affairs Officer, U.S. Embassy

Monica Cure

Author and Fulbright Alumna

Radu Florescu

CEO, Cheil Centrade South East Europe

Romanian Board Members

Remus Pricopie

President of the Board (until June 2023)
Rector, National University of Political Studies
and Public Administration

Janina-Mirela Sitaru

Secretary of State, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Ligia Deca (starting March 2023)

Minister of Education

Adrian Curaj (until December 2022)

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

Marian Preda

Rector, University of Bucharest

Alexandru Mihai Ghigiu (until Dec. 2022)

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

Madlen Șerban (starting March 2023)

Secretary General at National Commission of
Romania for UNESCO

Alina Bârgăoanu (starting July 2023)

Dean, College of Communication and Public
Relations, National University of Political
Studies and Public Administration

Fulbright Team

Mircea Dumitru

Executive Director

Corina Dănăilă-Guidea

Romanian Program Director

Mihai Moroiu

American Program Director

Loredana Bucuroaia

Program Assistant

Laura Pari

Financial Manager

Mihaela Doagă

Educational Adviser

Ruxandra Rădulescu

Educational Adviser



The Fulbright Grants

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. Grants are awarded through open merit-based competitions supervised by bi-national 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 a couple of weeks to one academic year, depending on the category of grant the applicant wants to apply for.

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 in Entrepreneurship** – 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.
- **Fulbright-RAF Visiting Scholar Award in Agricultural Extension Services** – for Romanian academics who wish to carry out a semester-long fellowship in residence for study and research, individual mentorship, professional training, classroom observation and participation in community-based extension activities.
- **The Hubert H. Humphrey Fellowship Program** – 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** – a six-week professional development program for secondary-level school teachers.
- **Study of the U.S. Institutes for European Student Leaders** – a five-week academic program meant to provide undergraduate student leaders with a deeper understanding of the United States while simultaneously enhancing their leadership skills.
- **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 2022–2023

FULBRIGHT VISITING SCHOLAR PROGRAM

1. Ana BĂRAR

Home University: Politehnica University Bucharest

Host University: New York University

Field: Material Science/Solar Cells

Type of Grant: Research

2. Ana-Maria BERCU

Home Institution: "Alexandru Ioan Cuza" University of Iași

Host University: University of Illinois, Chicago

Field: Public Administration

Type of Grant: Research

3. Giorgiana Mihaela CĂTUNESCU

Home Institution: University of Agricultural Sciences and Veterinary Medicine Cluj-Napoca

Host University: Cornell College of Agriculture and Life Science

Field: Agriculture/Food Safety

Type of Grant: Research

4. Iulian Mihai DAMIAN

Home Institution: Babeș-Bolyai University Cluj-Napoca

Host University:

St. Bonaventure University

Field: Medieval & Renaissance History

Type of Grant: Research

5. Octavian DĂNILĂ

Home Institution: Politehnica University Bucharest

Host University: The City College of New York

Field: Electrical Engineering

Type of Grant: Research

6. Mihai DAVID

Home Institution: Babeș-Bolyai University, Cluj-Napoca

Host University: Louisiana State University

Field: Civil Law

Type of Grant: Research

7. Loredana DUMITRAȘCU

Home Institution: Dunărea de Jos University, Galați

Host University: Washington State University

Field: Agriculture/Food Science

Type of Grant: Research

8. Dinu GAVOJDIAN

Home Institution: Research and Development Institute for Bovine, Bucharest

Host University: Washington State University

Field: Agriculture/Dairy Science

Type of Grant: Research

9. Dan Doru MICU

Home Institution: Technical University of Cluj-Napoca

Host University: University of Florida

Field: Electrical Engineering

Type of Grant: Research and Teaching

10. Cristian Emil NAE

Home Institution: "George Enescu" National University of Arts, Iași

Host University: The University of California at Santa Barbara

Field: Art History

Type of Grant: Research

11. Mirel Adrian POPA

Home Institution: Institute of Cellular Biology and Pathology "Nicolae Simionescu", Bucharest

Host University: Michigan State University

Field: Biology/Biomedical Sciences

Type of Grant: Research

12. Maria SUCIU

Home Institution: Babeș-Bolyai University, Cluj-Napoca

Host University: University of California, Los Angeles

Field: Cellular Biology

Type of Grant: Research

13. Daniel Nicolae SULTĂNESCU

Home Institution: National University of Political Science and Public Administration, Bucharest

Host University: University of South Carolina

Field: Mass Communications

Type of Grant: Research

14. Stefan Eugen SZEDLACSEK

Home Institution: Institute of Biochemistry of the Romanian Academy, Bucharest

Host University: The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center

Field: Biology/Molecular Biochemistry

Type of Grant: Research

15. Mihaela TINCA UDRIȘTIOIU

Home Institution: University of Craiova

Host University: Georgia Southern University

Field: STEM Education

Type of Grant: Research

16. Nicolae URS

Home Institution: Babes-Bolyai University, Cluj-Napoca

Host University: University of Georgia

Field: Public Administration/Information Policy

Type of Grant: Research

17. Sergiu VACARU Sr.

Home Institution: Yu. Fedkovych National State University at Chernivtsi, Ukraine

Host University: California State University at Fresno

Field: Theoretical & Mathematical Physics

Type of Grant: Research

ROMANIAN GRANTEES 2022–2023

FULBRIGHT-RAF VISITING SCHOLAR PROGRAM

1. Elena AVRAM GĂLĂȚEANU

Home University: "Gheorghe Asachi" Technical University of Iași

Host University: University of Rochester, AIN Center for Entrepreneurship

Field: Entrepreneurship & Entrepreneurial Studies

Type of Grant: Research & Academic Training

2. Mădălin-Corneliu FRUNZETE

Home University: Politehnica University of Bucharest

Host University: University of Rochester, AIN Center for Entrepreneurship

Field: Entrepreneurship & Entrepreneurial Studies

Type of Grant: Research & Academic Training

3. Ana-Cristina NICOLESCU

Home University: West University of Timișoara

Host University: University of Rochester, AIN Center for Entrepreneurship

Field: Entrepreneurship & Entrepreneurial Studies

Type of Grant: Research & Academic Training

4. Ramona-Dana SUHAROSCHI

Home University: University of Agricultural Sciences and Veterinary Medicine of Cluj-Napoca

Host University: University of Rochester, AIN Center for Entrepreneurship

Field: Entrepreneurship & Entrepreneurial Studies

Type of Grant: Research & Academic Training

FULBRIGHT STUDENT PROGRAM

1. Vlad AMIHĂEȘI

Home University: National Meteorological Administration of Romania/ "Alexandru Ioan Cuza" University of Iași

Host University: University of Colorado Boulder

Field: Environmental Sciences

Type of Grant: Research

2. Daria ANGHEL

Home University: Leiden University, the Hague, the Netherlands

Host University: New York University

Field: Arts/Interdisciplinary Studies

Type of Grant: Master's

3. Georgiana ANGHELIN

Home University: University of Bucharest

Host University: Old Dominion University

Field: Geography/Remote Sensing/Oceanography

Type of Grant: Research

4. Raluca CREANGĂ

Home University: University of Bucharest

Host University: Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Field: Social Anthropology

Type of Grant: Research

5. Cristina DARMĂZ

Home University: University of Suffolk, UK

Host University: State University of New York at Albany

Field: Criminal Justice

Type of Grant: Master's

6. Andreea DINCA

Home University: West University Timișoara

Host University: Iowa State University of Science and Technology

Field: Applied Linguistics

Type of Grant: Research

7. Ioannis KARPATHEAKIS

Home University: University of Agricultural Sciences and Veterinary Medicine of Bucharest/ University College London

Host University: University of Minnesota

Field: Biotechnologies

Type of Grant: Research

8. Aurora MITITELU

Home University: Bucharest National University of Arts

Host University: University of California Los Angeles

Field: Design Media Arts

Type of Grant: Master's

9. Constantin RADU

Home University: University of Bucharest

Host University: Yale University

Field: Public Health

Type of Grant: Master's

10. Aura Andreea RĂILEANU

Home University: Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne University/ Paris 2 Panthéon-Assas University/ University of Bucharest

Host University: Georgetown University

Field: International Investments and Arbitration Law

Type of Grant: Master's

11. Larisa SÂRGHIE

Home University: University of Bucharest

Host University: University of California, Los Angeles

Field: Genetics/ Integrative Biology

Type of Grant: Research

12. Filip ȘERBAN-DRĂGAN

Home University: University of Bucharest

Host University: University of Oregon

Field: Psychology/ Prevention Studies

Type of Grant: Master's

FULBRIGHT STUDENT PROGRAM - RENEWALS

1. Andrei PETRUȘ

Home University: University of Bath

Host University: Brown University

Field: Biomedical Engineering

Type of Grant: Master's

2. Aurelian Dragoș MOHAN

Home University: University of Bucharest

Host University: Columbia University

Field: Political Sciences/Public Policies

Type of Grant: Master's

HUBERT H. HUMPHREY FELLOWSHIP

1. Ioana MORAR

Home Institution: Romanian National Administration of Penitentiaries

Host University: University of Minnesota

Field: Law and Human Rights

FULBRIGHT TEACHING EXCELLENCE AND ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM

1. Cosmina-Elena ALMĂȘAN (Fall 2023 cohort)

Home Institution: "Octavian Goga" National College, Sibiu

Host University: University of Wisconsin – Madison

Field: Media Literacy

2. Emilian COLCERU-MIHUL (Fall 2023 cohort)

Home Institution: National Theoretical High School, Bucharest

Host University: University of Northern Colorado

Field: Media Literacy

3. Nicolae-Andrei SZILAGYI (Fall 2023 cohort)

Home Institution: Uriu Secondary School

Host University: University of Wisconsin - Madison

Field: Media Literacy

2023 SUMMER INSTITUTE FOR STUDENT LEADERS FROM EUROPE

1. Amalia-Daria BODAC

Home Institution: West University of Timișoara

Host University: Arizona State University

Institute Theme: Journalism and Media

2. Bianca-Stephanie ION

Home Institution: University of Bucharest; "Dunărea de Jos" University of Galați

Host University: Arizona State University

Institute Theme: Journalism and Media

3. Andra-Silvana ZOICA

Home Institution: University of Bucharest

Host University: Arizona State University

Institute Theme: Journalism and Media

REPORTING COMPLEXITY: A U.S. STUDY TOUR FOR JOURNALISTS FROM CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE

1. Bianca ALBU

Group 2 – November 2022

Professional Affiliation:

Buletin de București

Field: Journalism

2. Georgiana-Adina FLOREA

Group 2 – November 2022

Professional Affiliation:

Ringier Romania

Field: Journalism

3. Mădălin NECȘUȚU

Group 1 – October 2022

Professional Affiliation: Balkan Investigative Reporting Network

Field: Journalism

4. Claudia-Adriana SPRIDON

Group 1 – October 2022

Professional Affiliation:

Panorama.ro

Field: Journalism





The Fulbright Grants

Grants For American Citizens

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 shared international challenges.

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, participate in American Corners events and other similar activities.

- **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 pursue 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.
- **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 2022–2023

U.S. FULBRIGHT SCHOLARS

1. Laura CHEZAN

Fulbright-Universitatea Babeș-Bolyai Award

Home University: Old Dominion University, VA

Host University: Babeș-Bolyai University of Cluj-Napoca

Field: Education

2. Laura JONES

Fulbright-Universitatea Babeș-Bolyai Award

Home University: Liberty University, VA

Host University: Babeș-Bolyai University of Cluj-Napoca

Field: Education

3. Renée LOUPRETTE

Home University: Bard College, NY

Host University: Transilvania University of Brașov

Field: Music

4. Leah PERRY

Home University: SUNY Empire State College, NY

Host University: University of Bucharest

Field: American and Gender Studies

5. Craig PRENTISS

Fulbright-University of Bucharest Award

Home University: Rockhurst University, MO

Host University: University of Bucharest

Field: Religious Studies

6. Bogdan STRIMBU

Fulbright-University of Bucharest Award

Home University: Oregon State University

Host University: University of Bucharest

Field: Forestry, Mathematics

7. Gene TANTA

Home University: University of Maryland Global Campus

Host University: West University of Timișoara

Field: Writing

8. Laura WEST

Home University: Salisbury University in Maryland

Host University: West University of Timișoara

Field: Fine Arts

U.S. FULBRIGHT SCHOLARS EXTENSIONS & RENEWALS

1. Sarah BROWN

9 months - renewal

Home University: University of Memphis, TN

Host University: "Lucian Blaga" University of Sibiu

Field: Drama/Theater Arts

2. Theresa Burriss

1-month extension

Home University: Radford University, VA

Host University: Transilvania University of Brașov

Field: Cross-Cultural Studies

3. Tyler Lippert

5 months - renewal

Home University: University of Maryland-University College

Host University: University of Bucharest

Field: Political Science

4. Nathaniel Wallace

3-month extension

Home University: South Carolina State University

Host University: "Alexandru Ioan Cuza" University of Iași

Field: American Studies

FULBRIGHT GLOBAL SCHOLAR AWARD

1. Corina PETRESCU

Home University: University of Mississippi

Host University: „Wilhelm Filderman” Center for the Study of Jewish History in Romania

Field: History

FULBRIGHT SCHUMAN AWARD

1. Melanie RAM

Home University: California State University, Fresno

Host University: University of Bucharest

Field: Political Science

U.S. FULBRIGHT STUDENTS

1. Amy BIEDERMANN

Home University: Texas State University, TX

Host University: "Dunărea de Jos" University of Galați

Field: English Teaching Assistantship

2. Martha Jayne BROWN

Home University: SUNY at Albany, NY

Host University: University of Oradea

Field: English Teaching Assistantship

3. Andreea Gabriela CIOBANU

Home University: Yale University, CT

Host University: University of Bucharest

Field: English Teaching Assistantship

U.S. FULBRIGHT STUDENTS

4. Isabel CRIST

Home University:

New Mexico State University-
Main Campus, NM

Host University: "Ștefan cel
Mare" University of Suceava

Field: English Teaching
Assistantship

5. Alexa DeCARLO

Home University: University of
North Texas, TX

Host University: University of
Craiova

Field: English Teaching
Assistantship

6. Hannah Jane GEERLINGS

Home University: The University
of Tennessee-Knoxville, TN

Host University: West University
of Timișoara

Field: English Teaching
Assistantship

7. Russell Grant GUERTIN

Home University: Georgetown
University, DC

Host University: "Vasile Goldiș"
University of Arad & North
University Center in Baia Mare

Field: English Teaching
Assistantship

8. James David KNIGHT

Home University: Liberty
University, VA

Host University: University of
Bucharest, Babeș-Bolyai
University of Cluj-Napoca

Field: History

9. Emily MAHONEY

Home University: Connecticut
College, CT

Host University: Babeș-Bolyai
University of Cluj-Napoca

Field: English Teaching
Assistantship

10. Eni OWOEYE

Home University: New York
University, NY

Host University: "Lucian Blaga"
University of Sibiu

Field: English Teaching
Assistantship

11. Allie RIGBY

Home University: San Francisco
State University, CA

Host University: Ovidius
University of Constanța

Field: English Teaching
Assistantship

12. Christopher Mark SHEPLER

Home University: Florida
Atlantic University, FL

Host University: "Alexandru Ioan
Cuza" University of Iași

Field: English Teaching
Assistantship

13. Nicholas Bronte STAHL

Home University: at large

Host University: Babeș-Bolyai
University of Cluj-Napoca

Field: Filmmaking

14. McKenzie TOMA

Home University: University of
Iowa, IA

Host University: Babeș-Bolyai
University of Cluj-Napoca

Field: History

15. Mina VIDRINE

Home University: University of
Oregon, OR

Host University: Transilvania
University of Brașov

Field: English Teaching
Assistantship

16. Nicole WELLS

Home University: George Mason
University, VA

Host University: University of
Bucharest

Field: Political Science

U.S. FULBRIGHT STUDENTS EXTENSIONS & RENEWALS FROM

1. Zoë AQUA

9 months - renewal

Home University: At-Large

Host University: Babeș-Bolyai
University of Cluj-Napoca

Field: Music Pedagogy

2. Rajnesh CHAKRAPANI

3-month extension

Home University: University of
Iowa

Host University: University of
Bucharest

Field: Language and Poetry

FULBRIGHT SPECIALIST PROGRAM

Applications approved in
FY2023 for the
Fulbright Specialist Program

1. Project title: Audience engagement - course & masterclass

Discipline: Communication and
Journalism

Host University: University of
Bucharest (March 2024)

Fulbright Specialist: Desiree
Newhart Hill – University of
Central Oklahoma

2. Project title: Fostering good practices for engaged universities in Romania

Discipline: Public Administration
Host University: Babes-Bolyai
University, Cluj-Napoca
(September-October 2023)

Fulbright Specialist: Maria
Aristigueta Coons, University of
Delaware

3. Project title: Improving Assessment for and in Romanian Higher Education

Discipline: Education
Host University: University of
Bucharest (May 2023)

Fulbright Specialist: Richard
Phelps - The Association of
Boarding Schools, Asheville, NC

4. Project title: Logic-Based Therapy & Consultation (LBTC)

Discipline: Education
Host University: West University
of Timisoara (March 2023)
Fulbright Specialist: Elliot D
Cohen - Florida State University
College of Medicine

5. Project title: Natural language processing using deep learning approaches

Discipline: Computer Science
and Information Technology
Host University: Politehnica
University, Bucharest (March-
May 2023)

Fulbright Specialist: Cornelia
Caragea – University of Illinois
Chicago

Fulbright Exchanges in Numbers

AY 2022-2023

83

FULBRIGHT
GRANTEES

46 RO/37 U.S.

GRANTEES BY CATEGORY

Romanian: 46

17 Scholars
4 Fulbright-RAF
Scholars
12 Students
2 Student renewals
1 Hubert H. Humphrey
3 Fulbright TEA
3 SUSI
4 Journalists

American: 37

8 Scholars
4 Scholar
renewals/extensions
1 Global Scholar
1 Schuman Scholar
16 Students
2 Student
renewals/extensions
5 Specialists

1960-2023

3614

FULBRIGHT
GRANTEES

2311

Romanian Grantees

1303

American Grantees

COMMISSION UPDATES

30th Anniversary of the Romanian-U.S. Fulbright Commission



On April 27, 2023, the Ambassador of the United States of America Kathleen Kavalec and Mr. Mark Taplin hosted an anniversary reception marking 30 years since the inauguration of the Romanian-U.S. Fulbright Commission.

The celebration brought together a highly distinguished public, made up of ministers, diplomats, and representatives of the business environment, alongside Romanian and U.S. grantees, alumni and academia dedicated to educational exchanges.

The U.S. Ambassador Kathleen Kavalec, Minister of Education Dr. Ligia Deca, along with Prof. Remus Pricopie, President of the Commission's Board of Directors, and Prof. Mircea Dumitru, Executive Director of the Commission greeted the audience and emphasized the distinct role the Fulbright Program is continuing to play in fostering the relationships between our cultures, societies, and countries.

The festive atmosphere was

further enhanced by U.S. Fulbrighters and musicians Zoë Aqua and Shaun Williams who delivered a wonderful musical moment drawing from the Klezmer and Transylvanian musical traditions.

We thank all our partners and friends for their steady support of our endeavors, and we congratulate Romanian and American Fulbrighters alike, who have given distinction, excellence, vitality, and human generosity to this program.

& GRANT-SUPPORTING ACTIVITIES

U.S. Alumni Fair 2023



On April 26, 2023 the Romanian-U.S. Fulbright Commission and EducationUSA Romania organized the fourth edition of the U.S. Alumni Fair, with the support of the U.S. Embassy in Bucharest. The fair hosted by the National Library of Romania was included among the events marking the 30th anniversary of the Fulbright Commission.

Following a brief introduction by Prof. Mircea Dumitru, the Executive Director of the Fulbright Commission, the

visitors were welcomed by U.S. Ambassador Kathleen Kavalec, Ms. Rebecca Zeigler Mano, Director of the Education Matters non-profit organization, and Prof. Adrian Cioroianu, Director of the National Library of Romania.

28 alumni of various American universities – diplomats from the U.S. Embassy and U.S. Fulbright grantees – came together as representatives of their alma maters and spoke to the numerous visitors, from Bucharest and elsewhere, who joined us on an exploration of

the American college experience. During the 3-hour event, the high school and college students visiting the fair, together with their teachers and parents, had the opportunity to interact with the American alumni and to get more in-depth information on the Fulbright programs for Romanian citizens, as well as on the free services and resources offered by the Fulbright-EducationUSA Advising Center.

30th Anniversary Celebration at the Embassy of Romania to the U.S.



On May 26, 2023, the Embassy of Romania to the United States celebrated the 30th Anniversary of the Romanian-U.S. Fulbright Commission with a reception entitled "Academic Exchanges and Lifelong Ties." An important academic benchmark of the Romanian - United States partnership in the field of education, the Fulbright Program has played, since 1960, a key role in Romania's process of evolution and democratization and has had a significant positive influence on the lives and careers of more than 3,600 Romanian and American citizens who were part of these bilateral academic exchanges.

Ethan Rosenzweig, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Academic Programs at the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, and other representatives from the Department of State, executive directors from EU Fulbright Commissions, U.S. Fulbrighters to Romania and Romanian Fulbright grantees

were present to celebrate these lifelong ties. The Fulbright Commission was represented by Remus Pricopie, President of the Board, Mircea Dumitru, Executive Director, and Corina Danaila, program coordinator.

On this occasion, the Ambassador of Romania, Andrei Muraru, stated: "The Fulbright Program itself has been active for longer than our democracy in Romania and undoubtedly contributed to its robustness over the decades. The launch of the Romanian-U.S. Fulbright Commission meant a new level of trust and a solid educational bridge crossed by many generations of students and teachers. At the end of each road, these generations shaped our societies on both sides of the Atlantic and set new standards of quality in our universities, helped shape our cultural understanding of the world, and instilled vision into political leadership."

Study Tour in the U.S. for Journalists from Central and Eastern Europe



The "Reporting Complexity: A U.S. Study Tour for Journalists from Central and Eastern Europe" program has been successfully completed in November 2022. 36 practicing journalists from 12 countries participated in the study tour in two cohorts: October 15 – 29 and November 5-19, 2022. The program consisted of a two-week learning experience in Washington, DC and New York City, aimed at building skills, knowledge and awareness related to reporting on complex issues.

The program was a joint undertaking of Fulbright Commissions based in Bulgaria, Czech Republic,

Hungary, Poland, Romania, and Slovak Republic, as well as U.S. Embassies in Albania, Kosovo, Moldova, Montenegro, Republic of North Macedonia, and Serbia. The program was sponsored and coordinated jointly by the Romanian-U.S. Fulbright Commission, the Bulgarian - American Commission for Educational Exchange, and the Polish-U.S. Fulbright Commission, with funding provided by the U.S. Department of State, and implemented by World Learning.

For more details, see:

<https://fulbright.ro/grant/reporting-complexity-study-tour-for-journalists>



The Pre-departure Orientation for 2023-2024 Romanian Fulbright Grantees



On June 15, 2023 the Romanian-U.S. Fulbright Commission held its Pre-departure Orientation Seminar dedicated to the Romanian Fulbright grantees and independent students leaving for the U.S. to study or conduct research in the academic year 2023-2024.

The event began in the morning with welcome speeches by distinguished guest speakers representing the U.S. Embassy in Romania, the Romanian

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Fulbright Board of Directors, and the Romanian academia, who shared their thoughts on the Fulbright program and congratulated the grantees. Throughout the day, Romanian Alumni, together with several U.S. Grantees, participated in panel discussions, offering practical information and guidance to the participants. The Romanian Alumni also shared personal impressions about their grant in the U.S. and their re-adjustment upon return, as well as about their projects as an outcome of the award. Specific details and advice on J&F visas were provided by Thomas Bills, Consul and Visa chief, U.S. Embassy Bucharest, who joined us for a presentation and

kindly answered questions from the audience. Dr. Laura Chezan, U.S. Fulbright Scholar at Babeş-Bolyai University of Cluj-Napoca and Associate Professor at Old Dominion University, involved all the participants in a workshop addressing up-to-date topics such as diversity, equity and inclusion in the U.S. academia and building emotional resilience in a new environment. The one-day event concluded in the evening with a reception held at *Casa Oamenilor de Știință* to honor the Romanian grantees, the alumni and partners of the program.

Orientation for the 2023-2024 U.S. Fulbright Grantees



From September 27 to 29, 2023, the Romanian-U.S. Fulbright Commission organized the Orientation for the new cohort of U.S. Fulbright grantees. The event brought together 28 U.S. Fulbrighters and their families. More U.S. grantees will be joining us in the second semester of the new academic year, bringing the total to 36 American Fulbrighters.

The first day of the orientation was dedicated to the ETAs, with a focus on education and teaching. Sessions included "Higher Education in Romania – Overview and Processes" by Dr. Simona Iftimescu from the University of Bucharest, "University Pedagogy: Strategies for Teaching Excellence and Serving Students" led by U.S. Fulbright Scholar Dr. David Gracon, and "Best Practices for Teaching EFL and American Culture in Romania" delivered by U.S. Fulbright ETAs Amy Biedermann and Andreea Ciobanu. In the afternoon, the ETAs participated in an "Anti-Bias Training in the Classroom" led by U.S. Fulbright Alumna Allie Rigby. They also had the opportunity to meet their

mentors from universities in Arad, Bacău, Baia Mare, Braşov, Bucharest, Cluj-Napoca, Craiova, Iaşi, Sibiu, Suceava, and Timişoara. The day concluded with a reception where the entire group of U.S. Fulbrighters connected with other alumni, partners, and Commission friends.

On September 28, the group was officially welcomed by high-ranking U.S. and Romanian officials: H.E. Kathleen Kavalec, U.S. Ambassador to Romania, Mr. Andrei Cosmin Luca, Director, Department of Cultural Diplomacy, Education and Science, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Daniel F. Visoiu, President of the Commission's Board of Directors, Dr. Mihaela Precup, Fulbright Alumna and Associate Professor at the University of Bucharest, and Prof. Mircea Dumitru, Executive Director of the Fulbright Commission.

Following the opening welcome, the grantees received briefings on security, political, consular, health, public diplomacy, and media matters from U.S. Embassy experts Christopher Gruber, Rebecca

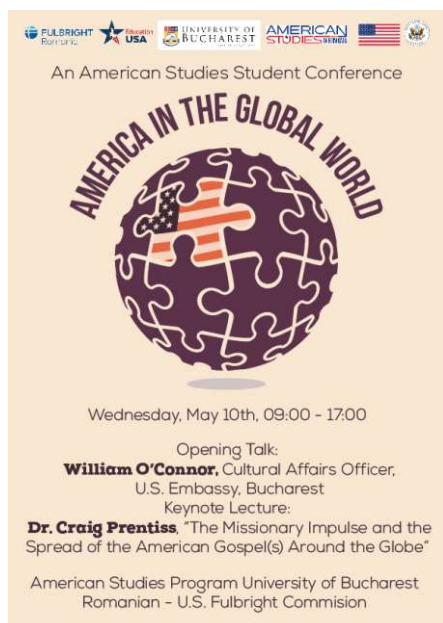


Molinoff, Thomas Bills, James Leggett, and Peter H. Brown.

Later in the day, Fulbright alumni Dr. Mugur Zlotea and Dr. Mihaela Precup offered insights into Romania's academic life and culture, while Prof. Dragoş Iliescu shared some "Emotional Tools for Shaping the Fulbright Experience." The Fulbrighters also had the opportunity of meeting Delphine Perchec, Regional Diversity & Inclusion Coordinator, Europe and Eurasia, who facilitated a session titled "Navigating Identities in Romania."

The third day of the orientation started with a session on Fulbright logistics, covering financial matters, residence permits, work-related travel, future group meetings, and ways to stay connected. It was followed by a 2-hour Romanian Language Lesson for Beginners, led by Dr. Mona Moldoveanu Pologea, Managing Director at ROLANG School.

The event concluded with a city bus tour and a visit to the Palace of Parliament.



The Annual American Studies Student 2023 Conference

On May 10, 2023, the Romanian-U.S. Fulbright Commission had the pleasure of acting, once again, as the host of the annual American Studies Student Conference, organized by the English Department of the University of Bucharest. The theme of this year's edition was "America in the Global World". This year's edition brought together

undergraduate and graduate students from around the country. The participants delivered thought-provoking presentations on topics ranging from "the diversity revolution" and gender roles to diasporic identities. The quality of the papers and the dynamic presentation style were highly appreciated by the audience.

Winter Holiday Meeting and Enrichment Program



Fulbright Alumnae Prof. Loredana Pungă, Dean of the Faculty of Letters, History and Theology, and Prof. Cristina Chevereșan, Director, American Studies discussed the history of teaching American Studies in Timișoara and the future plans and activities of the newly launched Center.

The Fulbrighters also had the chance to present their main teaching and research activities in their first couple of months in Romania, as well as various academic and artistic projects and events they have participated in, such as public lectures, poetry readings, recitals, and volunteering work. The group also had the opportunity to learn more about Timișoara and its role during the 1989 Revolution through a visit to the Memorial of the Revolution and a walking tour of the city center with Dr. Alexandru Drăgan, Vice-Dean of the Faculty of Chemistry, Biology and Geography.

On December 8th and 9th, 2022, the Romanian-U.S. Fulbright Commission organized the Winter Holiday Meeting and Enrichment Program devoted to the 2022-2023 U.S. Fulbright grantees teaching and conducting research in Romania. The event was hosted by West University of Timișoara.

The group was welcomed by Prof. Marilen-Gabriel Pirtea, Rector of West University of Timișoara, Assoc. Prof.

Cătălina Ancuța, Vice-Rector, and Prof. Mircea Dumitru, Executive Director of the Fulbright Commission.

The American Fulbrighters had the chance to learn about the university, a dynamic educational and research institution in western Romania, its history, values and mission.

One highlight of the program was the launch of the American Studies Center at West University of Timișoara.

Final meeting of the 2022-2023 U.S. Fulbrighters



On June 8th & 9th, 2023, we had a wonderful final meeting with the 2022-2023 American Fulbright grantees in Romania, hosted by "Lucian Blaga" University of Sibiu. The U.S. Fulbright Scholars, Student Researchers and ETAs, as well as their accompanying dependents, traveled to Sibiu from Baia-Mare, Braşov, Bucharest, Constanţa, Cluj-Napoca, Craiova, Galaţi, Iaşi, Oradea, Suceava, and Timişoara. The group was welcomed by Prof. Eva Burduşel, Vice-Dean for Academic Affairs, Research and International Relations at "Lucian Blaga" University of Sibiu, Dr. Ovidiu Matiu, Head of the Anglo-American and German Studies Department at "Lucian Blaga" University of

Sibiu, and Prof. Mircea Dumitru, the Executive Director of the Fulbright Commission.

The Fulbrighters presented on their main teaching and research activities, as well as an impressive number of academic, artistic and cultural projects & events, such as conferences, exhibitions, public lectures, poetry readings, theatre festivals, and volunteering work. All in all, an absolutely impressive amount of good work and added experience for the U.S. participants in the program and invaluable benefits for their Romanian colleagues, students, and friends.

On the second day of the meeting, the group visited the ASTRA Museum of Folkloric

Traditional Civilization. Spread over 96 hectares in Dumbrava Sibiului Natural Park, ASTRA is one of the largest open-air museums in Europe and has over 400 traditional houses, household annexes and technical installations from all over Romania, all celebrating the country's traditional folklore and way of life.

Program Presentations and Seminars for Romanian Fulbright Applicants

ONLINE ESSAY WRITING WORKSHOP

Tuesday, April 11, 4:00 p.m.

Workshop coordinated by
Andreea Ciobanu

Graduate of Yale University and
Fulbright ETA at the University of
Bucharest

Join us on Google Meet:

<https://meet.google.com/ewq-iydy-smf>



We are including below a selection of events organized for Romanian prospective applicants, with the mention that the Fulbright alumni and grantees who accepted to share their experience and knowledge had an essential contribution to the success of these events.

September 21, 2023:

webinar dedicated to Fulbright Visiting Scholar Program applicants, Romanian professors, researchers and professionals, with a doctoral degree or equivalent, interested in conducting research and/or lecturing in U.S. universities. Fulbright alumni Dr. Ana Barar – Lecturer, National University of Science and Technology Politehnica Bucharest, and Dr. Nicolae Urs – Associate Professor, Babeş-Bolyai University Cluj-Napoca shared knowledge and practical suggestions from their own experience as successful applicants, with emphasis on drafting the project statement.

NEW WEBINAR FOR FULBRIGHT VISITING SCHOLAR PROGRAM APPLICANTS



<https://fulbright.ro>

Monday,
October 17,
2022

4:00 p.m.

July 10, 2023:

webinar addressed to Hubert H. Humphrey Fellowship Program applicants. Our special guests were Ioana Morar, 2022-2023 Humphrey Fellow at University of Minnesota, in the field of Law and Human Rights; and Andreea Gatman, 2023-2024 Humphrey Fellow at Vanderbilt University, in the field of Educational Administration, Planning and Policy. The invited speakers offered useful information about the application process and practical suggestions about the Humphrey experience in the U.S.

April 19, 2023:

Fulbright Student applicants had the opportunity to meet Aurora Mititelu, 2022-2023 Fulbright Grantee, Master's in Design Media Arts – University of California Los Angeles, and Aurelian Dragos Mohan, 2021-2023 Fulbright Grantee, Master's in International Affairs at Columbia University, during the webinar titled "Preparing the Application: Romanian Fulbrighters Share Their Best Practices". Aurora and Aurelian offered insider's tips on the application process, along with their best practices and suggestions about structuring the most important sections of the application, but also useful advice on how to select the U.S. school/program options.

April 11, 2023:

online workshop on graduate essay writing, coordinated by Andreea Ciobanu, BA graduate of Yale University and Fulbright ETA at the University of Bucharest. The participants, mainly prospective Fulbright applicants, got to discuss components of strong essays,

analyze excerpts from successful Fulbright applications, and touch upon the skills or qualifications to highlight in their texts. The workshop also covered topics like language and style for effective essay writing.

March 30, 2023:

the Fulbright Student applicants also had the opportunity to join us at the Fulbright Commission for an in-person workshop on graduate essay writing.

March 23, 2023:

U.S. Fulbright ETA Amy Biedermann organized an info session about study and research opportunities in the United States via the Fulbright Awards, as well as through independent applications. The presentation, kindly hosted and co-organized by the Faculty of Letters within "Dunărea de Jos" University of Galați, focused on the Fulbright Student Award for Romanian citizens, but also tackled questions about other study opportunities. Fulbright ETA Andreea Ciobanu, currently affiliated with the University of Bucharest, was also present at the event and shared her academic experience as a Yale graduate, as well as useful tips to help guide potential applicants through the Fulbright application process and beyond, while Romanian program coordinator Corina Dănăilă joined via zoom and spoke about our currently open competitions.

March 15, 2023:

online seminar dedicated to Fulbright Student Award applicants, and titled "Building a Solid Application: Tips and Best Practices from Romanian Fulbright Alumni". The webinar

was conducted by Carina Cozminski, 2020-2022 Fulbright Alumna, Master's in Media Management at The New School, and Ștefania Szeibert-Kerekes, 2020-2021 Fulbright Visiting Student Researcher in the field Public Health/ Epidemiology at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. Carina and Ștefania provided their perspectives on the application process for graduate admissions, along with practical suggestions from their own experience as Fulbright Student grantees in the U.S.

October 17, 2022:

webinar dedicated to Romanian PhD professors, researchers and professionals applying for the Fulbright Visiting Scholar program. Fulbright Alumni Dr. Florin Oprea, Professor at "Alexandru Ioan Cuza" University of Iași, and Dr. Mihaela Tinca Udristioiu, Lecturer at the University of Craiova shared useful information about the application process and practical suggestions from their U.S. experience as Fulbrighters.

October 4, 2022:

the webinar "Preparing Your Fulbright Application for the Visiting Scholar Program" offered guidance on how to fill out the Fulbright application, with an emphasis on drafting the project statement. Our guest speakers were Fulbright Alumna Dr. Cristina Nistor-Beuran, Babeș-Bolyai University of Cluj-Napoca and Fulbright Alumnus Dr. Emanuel Tundrea, Emanuel University Oradea.

Fulbright Educational Advising Center (FEAC-EducationUSA)

ACTIVITY HIGHLIGHTS

1. Outreach

Starting Fall 2022, we were able to resume our in-person outreach efforts in Bucharest and elsewhere. However, we also relied extensively on virtual outreach, as a cost-effective means to promote our programs to students across the country. We also accompanied representatives of two U.S. higher ed institutions (Drexel University and Troy University) on visits to Bucharest schools. Thus, we managed to acquaint an average 1,200 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 Romania.



Drexel University rep
"Tudor Vianu" National College
of Computer Science

Webinars and Virtual Workshops

We conducted monthly webinars and workshops on topics ranging from "Finding Your Passion Project" to "How to Manage Application-Related Stress", in close collaboration with the American Spaces network. Guest speakers included U.S. HEI reps from a variety of schools, U.S. Fulbright ETAs, and virtual interns joining us via the VSFS program. We also

organized our first ever virtual College Application Bootcamp, which included sessions on extracurricular activities, approaching the personal essay, and the CommonApp. An average 1,000 students from high schools in Bucharest, Bacău, Braşov, Cluj-Napoca, Craiova, Constanţa, Sibiu, Târgu Mureş, and Timişoara joined us online for these events.



Fulbright- EducationUSA
Advising Center

**EdUSA
Romania**

**College Application
Bootcamp**

Online event

15 October 2022
3-7 pm

Sign up by email:
feac@fulbright.ro

2. Opportunity Funds Program

FEAC/EducationUSA Romania kicked off the first Opportunity Funds program in Romania in the spring of 2016. In March 2023 we started working with our eighth cohort, made up of three highly promising high school students from Bucharest, Bacău, and Petroșani. They 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 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.



Troy University rep
ICHB Colentina

FROM FULBRIGHT

Heart of a Cabinetmaker: The Story of a Transylvania Saxon



U.S. Fulbrighter Sarah Brown has written and directed a brand-new play titled "Heart of a Cabinetmaker: The Story of a Transylvania Saxon." The play premiered on June 29, 2023 at the Evangelical Church of Saint Mary, during the International Theatre Festival in Sibiu (FITS 2023).

Set in the 14th century, the play is an adventure-romance about a craftsman who transforms the lives of everyone he meets – including his own. Performed in the impressive evangelical cathedral, this poignant story

with live music – about dreams lost and found – brings a bright message and transports the audience to another time. Read more about the play in this wonderful review of Sarah's latest success:

<https://agenda.liternet.ro/articol/27654/Ioana-Clara-Enescu/Inima-catedralea-Inima-de-tamplar-povestea-unui-sas-transilvan-la-FITS-2023.html>

Sarah Brown is a playwright, an international performer, a creator of mega site-specific shows, an educator and a Fulbright Scholar from the

University of Memphis, USA. For a fascinating glimpse into the work of a talented and accomplished artist and educator, see Sarah Brown's interview for the TVR Cultural show "Portrait of an artist," where she talks about her first play written and directed in Sibiu, "A Secret About Joy," as well as her family background, which played a significant role in the creation of the play and ultimately brought her to Romania.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9CAM-IAOzHM>

Organ Recitals by U.S. Fulbright Alumna Renée Anne Louprette



U.S. Fulbright Alumna Renée Anne Louprette returned to Romania to perform two exquisite organ recitals. The first recital, part of the 2023 Organ Nights series of events, took place on June 17, at the Black Church in Braşov, and it started with Renée's brief introduction in Romanian, mentioning the support of the Fulbright Program for her research project last fall and providing details about the recital program.

On June 25, Renée Anne Louprette concluded the 3rd edition of the "Cantus

Ecclesiae" International Organ Festival (Bucharest, June 3 – 25, 2023) with a recital focused on Gregorian music at Saint Joseph Cathedral in Bucharest.

American organist Renée Anne Louprette has established an international career as recitalist, conductor, collaborative musician, and teacher. She is an Assistant Professor of Music and College Organist at Bard College, where she is also the artistic director and conductor of the Bard Baroque Ensemble.

ALUMNI AND GRANTEES

Fulbright Alumna Dr. Monica Cure Wins Oxford-Weidenfeld Translation Prize

Dr. Monica Cure, U.S. Fulbright alumna and Board member of the Fulbright Commission, is the winner of the 2023 Oxford-Weidenfeld Prize for her English translation of *The Censor's Notebook* by Liliana Corobca for Seven Stories Press. The prize was announced on June 10th at St Anne's College, Oxford, as part

of its annual Oxford Translation Day.

The Oxford-Weidenfeld Translation Prize is awarded for book-length literary translations into English from any living European language, and it aims to honor the craft of translation, recognizing its cultural importance.



Sitting at the Table with Brâncuși

On August 18, 2023, U.S. Fulbright Scholar Laura West led a storytelling session titled "Sitting at the Table with Brâncuși" at Cazarma U in Timișoara. Laura shared stories of how Brâncuși's deep roots in Romania built the foundation upon which his

sculptural work changed the way artists worldwide look at and even create sculpture.

<https://www.banatulazi.ro/brancusi-se-asaza-la-masa-in-cazarma-u-timisoara>



Telling Stories with Impact

U.S. Fulbrighter Allie Rigby, poet and educator affiliated with Ovidius University of Constanța, hosted a series of 1-hour online conversations designed to connect students, faculty, emerging writers and artists in Romania with a global and growing community of people boldly sharing stories with the world. Under the umbrella-title "Telling Stories with Impact: How do we share stories that nudge the world in a positive direction," Allie led interesting conversations with

poet and translator Cătălina Stanislav, graphic journalist Nhatt Nichols, Filipina Romanian American playwright Amanda L. Andrei, Romanian American poet, translator, and dialogue specialist Monica Cure, and senior editor and climate justice reporter at Nonprofit Quarterly Iris Crawford. More details at:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/c/telling-stories-with-impact-1846739>



Book Launch: Pentru o femeie barbară



Fulbright alumnae Saviana Stănescu (award-winning playwright and Associate Professor of Theater Studies at Ithaca College, NY) and Diana Benea (Assistant Professor in the American Studies Program at the University of Bucharest) announced the release of *Pentru o femeie barbară*, published by the Romanian press Tracus Arte.

The volume includes five of Stănescu's recent plays (*Useless*, *Ants*, *For a Barbarian Woman*, *Don't / Dream*, and *Hurt*) translated into Romanian by Benea, who also wrote the critical introduction.

The official launch took place at the Cărturești Verona bookstore in Bucharest, on August 18, 2023.

Presentation on Romania's Media Market at the University of South Carolina



Professor Dan Sultănescu, 2022-2023 Fulbright Visiting Scholar at the University of South Carolina School of Journalism and Mass Communications, had the opportunity of an excellent dialogue with the students of his host university during a presentation concerning Romania's media market and media consumption patterns. Prof. Sultănescu gave insights about the evolution of the Romanian public's trust in Western allies and other conclusions resulted from the work done at the Center for Civic Participation and Democracy in Romania. The presentation continued with a

discussion on how the U.S. and Romanian audiences differ as regards social media habits. The students were also interested to find out more about life during Communism and the early democratic transition.

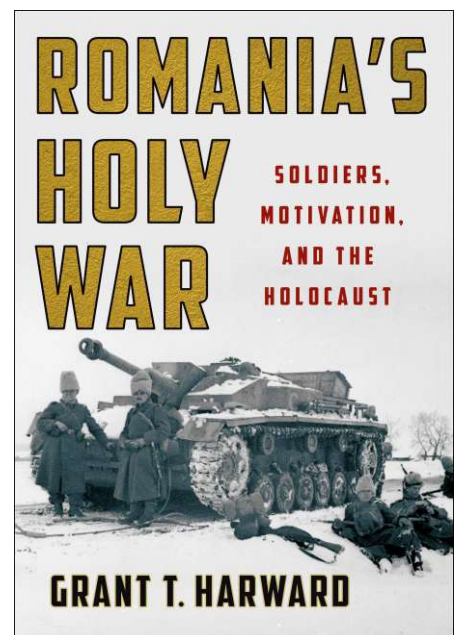
Dr. Sultănescu's research at the School of Journalism and Mass Communications, University of South Carolina focused on the evolution of the global conversation on misinformation, disinformation and fake news: https://www.sc.edu/study/colleges_schools/cic/initiatives/social_media_insights_lab/reports/2023/what_does_fake_news_mean.php

Barbara Jelavich Book Prize 2022

Grant T. Harward won the 2022 Barbara Jelavich Book Prize for his book *Romania's Holy War: Soldiers, Motivation, and the Holocaust* (Cornell University Press).

The book is based on Grant's research as a Fulbright Student in Romania in 2016-2017. The Barbara Jelavich Book Prize is awarded annually by the Association for Slavic, East

European, and Eurasian Studies (ASEEES), a nonprofit, non-political, scholarly society established in 1948, and a leading international organization dedicated to the advancement of knowledge about Central Asia, the Caucasus, Russia, and Eastern Europe in regional and global contexts.



On June 8, 2023, U.S. Fulbrighter Zoë Aqua, together with an all-Cluj group of musicians and special guests from the UK and Canada, performed an exceptional Klezmer and Transylvanian music concert in Sibiu, at the Theater Studio of the Center of Advanced Research in Performing Arts.

Zoë and the band performed songs from *In Vald Arayn*, her first solo album of original compositions, recorded with Eastern European musicians.

The album is a collection of 11 string compositions drawing from the Klezmer and Transylvanian musical traditions.

The album's Yiddish title translates to "Into the Forest", a play on the literal meaning of the word Transylvania, "beyond the forest" in Latin. Zoë Aqua is a violinist, music educator, and composer.

Concert in Sibiu by U.S. Fulbrighter Zoë Aqua



She has been awarded a Fulbright Student research grant in Cluj, Romania for the 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 academic years to study Transylvanian folk music pedagogy and the way musical folk traditions are passed on from generation to generation.



U.S. Fulbright Scholar Laura Chezan @ Smart Diaspora 2023



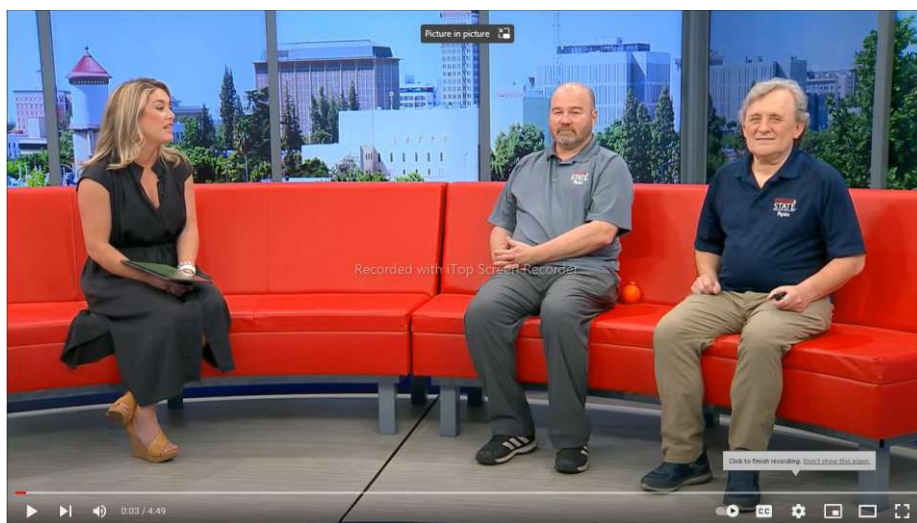
Fulbright Scholar Laura Chezan attended the SMART Diaspora 2023 International Conference housed by the West University of Timișoara on April 10-13, 2023.

Laura coordinated the workshop "Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, E-Migration: Innovation in Legislation for Vulnerable Populations and Dissemination of Research Findings" together with colleagues from Babeș-Bolyai University of Cluj-Napoca, the Department of Research in

Education, National Center on Educational Legislation and Assessment, Oxford University, and the West University of Timișoara. Laura presented and discussed topics related to inclusion for learners with disabilities in the U.S.

<https://www.diaspora-stiintifica.ro/workshopuri/echitate-diversitate-incluziune-e-migrare-inovatie-in-politicile-cu-pentru-grupurile-vulnerabile-si-produse-alternative-de-diseminare-a-cercetarii>

Interview with Fulbright Scholar Sergiu Vacaru



On March 13, 2023, Fulbright Visiting Scholar Dr. Sergiu Vacaru gave an interview to the local television channel "Central Valley Today!" in California, USA, in which he focused on his method of constructing exact solutions in gravity theories and modern cosmology:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pBJC-Uv-I1I>

The interview also featured Dr. Douglas Singleton who is a

Professor and Chair within the Physics Department at California State University, in Fresno.

Professor Singleton has collaborated for more than 24 years with Dr. Vacaru and his students from Romania, Republic of Moldova, and Ukraine. They discussed about the importance of "multidisciplinary research and applications of mathematical

methods in physics and quantum processing technologies."

During his Fulbright Visiting Scholar program at California State University, Fresno, Dr. Vacaru carried out a project addressing „nonassociative geometric and quantum information flows and applications in modern gravity and cosmology".

Identity and Security in the Black Sea Region

Marian Zulean, Professor at the University of Bucharest and Fulbright Visiting Scholar at Woodrow Wilson Center, discoursed on "Identity and Security in the Black Sea Region" as part of the Governing Deep Differences Lecture Series organized by the Center for Governance and Markets, Graduate School of Public and International Affairs (GSPIA), University of Pittsburgh. The talk focused on the nexus between geopolitical

challenges and cultural framework in the Black Sea region, framing around Dr. Zulean's edited volume, *Social Values and Identities in the Black Sea Region*.

The event held in September 2023 was co-sponsored by the Center for Russian, East European, & Eurasian Studies – REEES, Matthew B. Ridgway Center for International Security Studies, and Ford Institute for Human Security.



Dr. Mihaela Tinca Udristioiu was one of the speakers for the 2023 Global Health Catalyst Summit at the University of Pennsylvania (May 4-6, 2023). The theme was "Cancer Moonshot2.0."

This international event was focused on high-impact collaborations to advance global health and development. The summit's

motto, "Come Learn, Network, and Collaborate," represents an invitation for cooperation, catalyzing win-win collaborations to reduce disparities.

Dr. Udristioiu, Fulbright Research Scholar at Georgia Southern University, spoke about "GHC projects in Romania: Where is a will, there is a way," presenting an

Fulbright Scholar at 2023 Global Health Catalyst Summit

extraordinary achievement, a hospital for oncological children built by "Dăruiește viață" Association from private donations and a big dream that has just started to become a reality, to increase the quality of education and research in Medical Physics in Romania.

Cross-Cultural Negotiation



Dr. E. Patrick McDermott, Professor and Chair at the Department of Management, Salisbury University, was a Fulbright Scholar at the Faculty of Law, University of Bucharest in 2018-2019 and since then has been involved in a series of projects involving his Romanian colleagues and students.

The latest event organized by Patrick is the International

Negotiation Competition, a joint online venture for American and Romanian students. Read more about this Cross-Atlantic exercise and get a glimpse of the students' feedback here:

<https://www.salisbury.edu/news/article/2022-12-7-SU-Students-Participate-in-International-Negotiation-Competition-with-University-of-Bucharest>

Halloween Through the Lenses of Language, Literature, and Film



On October 28, 2022, Fulbright ETA Amy Biedermann co-hosted a Halloween student workshop at "Dunărea de Jos" University of Galați.

The event was titled "Halloween Through the Lenses of Language, Literature, and Film" and students learned about spooky English idioms and gave presentations about the origins of Halloween.

Amy also gave a lecture about references to African American literature in Jordan Peele's horror films. Amy Biedermann has a background in international development and adult education, with an MS from Tulane University of Louisiana and a PhD from Texas State University.

(Re)discover America with Mina and Max

On March 1st, 2023, U.S. Fulbright ETA Mina Kerr Vidrine, affiliated with Transilvania University of Braşov, and her husband Max Vidrine took part in an event dedicated to Celebrating Anglophone Cultures at "Vasile Alecsandri" University of Bacău.

Mina and Max talked about the American culture and their experience in Romania in an open Q&A session with over 150 undergrads studying philology, foreign languages, economics, and sciences, but also with high-school students from four national colleges in Bacău.



Interview with Fulbright ETA Russell Guertin

On October 4, 2023, very soon after just arriving in Romania, U.S. Fulbright ETA Russell Guertin was invited on a local radio show called Academica Joy on JoyFM together with his mentor from "Vasile Goldiş" Western University of Arad, Lecturer Laura Rebeca Stiegelbauer.

Russell talked about the Fulbright program, the work he will be doing at the university as an English Teaching Assistant, and his first impressions of Romania. Russell Guertin has a background in geopolitics and military studies, with a BA and MA from Georgetown University where he was also a teaching and research assistant.



<https://fulbright.ro/interview-with-fulbright-eta-russell-guertin>

FULBRIGHT STORIES

Read more stories from
Fulbright alumni:
<https://fulbright.ro/alumni>



Ana-Maria Bercu
Fulbright Visiting Scholar, 2022-2023

"My Fulbright experience at University of Illinois in Chicago, College of Urban Planning and Public Affairs reshaped the boundaries of my world and broadened my horizon. The Fulbright experience is all about helping you explore your skills to the fullest. Speaking as someone who loves a challenge, the Fulbright experience was everything I had hoped it would be."

Nicolae Urs, Fulbright Visiting Scholar, 2022-2023

"Fulbright is not just about research and academic events. At least for me, it was also about meeting new people, experiencing the local food, trying to understand different values. For two months my wife and daughter (she is 9) were in Athens with me, and together we were able to travel to Orlando, San Francisco, and Washington. The experiences we had together were extraordinary, and my daughter was impressed enough to declare that she plans to come to college at UGA, probably around 2032."



Maria-Cristina Mocanu Fulbright Teaching Excellence and Achievement Program, Fall 2022

"Writing about my Fulbright experience in the past tense is probably one of the hardest things I had to do in my adult life, not because I am unable to, nor am I the type of person who easily becomes overly nostalgic, but simply because it was an experience I would have never wanted to end. The further in time I get from it, the more I feel how it has changed me, how spending forty-five days immersed in such a transformative environment turned me into an even more focused professional, a better teacher and overall, an improved human being."



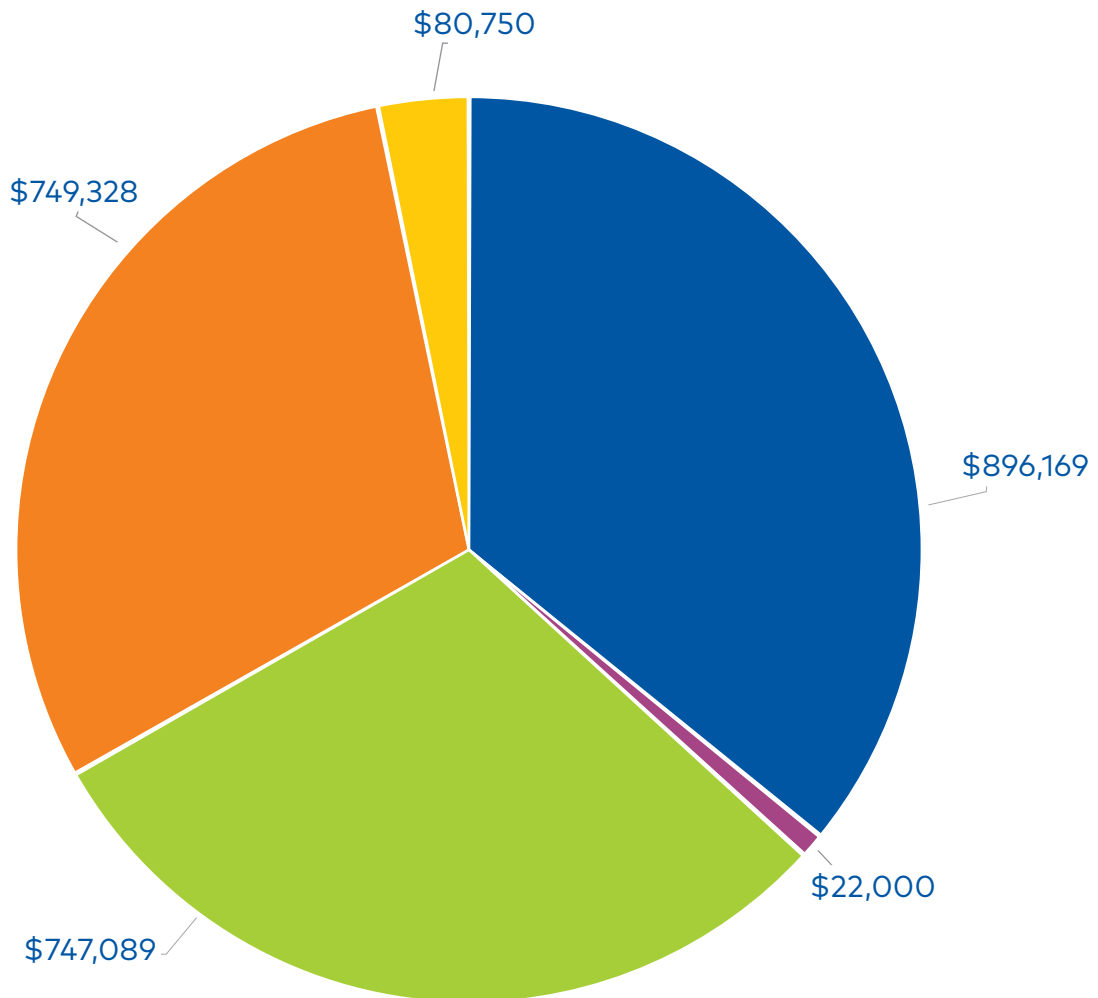
Claudia Spridon Reporting Complexity: A U.S. Study Tour for Journalists from Central and Eastern Europe, October 2022

"The networking component of the program with both colleagues journalists from other European countries and with the U.S. speakers was very useful to me, personally and professionally. It was important for me, not surprising though, to see that the struggles I have in my country as a journalist – disinformation, oversimplification, mobility from mainstream media to independent media, financing of the media environment – are also the struggles of my peers from other countries. To see that the media landscape in the USA also confronted with these problems but found tools to tackle them in a way or another was of great importance for me. The access to information, data bases, tools for data journalism but more importantly, to the solutions found by them, is useful. We can learn the lesson, try to take what fits in our media landscape and try to win back the trust of readers."



FY 2023 BUDGET

In FY 2023 the Commission's total budget amounted to \$2,495,336



\$896,169 funding from ECA/US Department of State (**\$891,254** allocation; **\$2,595** Humphrey Funds; **\$2,320** Global ED Meeting)

\$747,089 funding from the Romanian Government (amount received in Romanian currency)

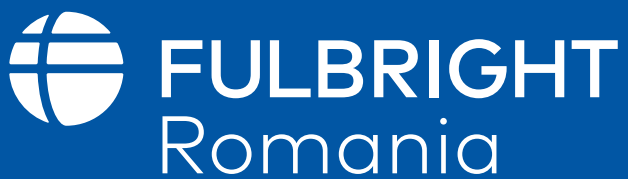
\$22,000 EducationUSA grant for advising and Opportunity Funds Program

\$749,328 Additional funds from the Romanian Government for 2015-2022 (amount received in Romanian currency)

\$80,750 funding from the Romanian-American Foundation for the Fulbright-RAF Visiting Scholar Program

Additional Support:

\$80,000 (estimated amount) - In kind support from the Romanian Government (office space and utilities)



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