



FULBRIGHT Romania



Annual Report

FISCAL YEAR 2024

October 1, 2023–September 30, 2024





FULBRIGHT Romania

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THE FULBRIGHT PROGRAM

Connecting people and places.
Advancing ideas.
Creating opportunity.

Founded in 1946, the Fulbright Program is the U.S. government's flagship international academic exchange program, designed to increase mutual understanding between the United States and partner countries, to forge lasting connections, counter misunderstandings, and help people and nations work together toward common goals. Led by the U.S. government in partnership with more than 160 countries worldwide, Fulbright offers an expansive suite of fellowships and scholarships for passionate and accomplished students, scholars, teachers, artists, and professionals of all backgrounds to study, teach, conduct research, pursue professional projects, 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 3700 Romanian and American students, scholars, teachers, artists, and professionals of all backgrounds and fields have had the

opportunity to participate in these educational and cultural exchanges between the two countries.

Inaugurated in May 1993 with the support of the American and Romanian Governments, the Romanian-U.S. Fulbright Commission celebrated its 30th Anniversary in 2023 and 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

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Registered Foreign Lawyer, Bucharest (Romania)
Bar, Member of Florida (USA) Bar

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Public Affairs Counselor, U.S. Embassy

Peter Brown

Cultural Affairs Officer, U.S. Embassy

Marina Coandă Bundac

(starting September 2024)
Director, Bonte Foundation

Charles Vernon

(starting September 2024)
Managing Partner, Vernon | David

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Ligia Deca

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Marian Preda

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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 2023–2024

FULBRIGHT VISITING SCHOLAR PROGRAM

1. Dan Gabriel ANGHEL

Home University: Bucharest University of Economic Studies
Host University: University of Pennsylvania, PA
Field: Environmental Economics
Type of Grant: Research

2. Felicia Gabriela BEREȘESCU

Home Institution: G. E. Palade University of Medicine, Pharmacy, Science and Technology of Targu Mures
Host University: UCLA School of Dentistry
Field: Dental Sciences
Type of Grant: Research

3. Marian CĂLBOREAN

Home Institution: University of Bucharest
Host University: City University of New York
Field: Philosophy/Logic
Type of Grant: Research

4. Robert CHIȘ-CIURE

Home Institution: International Center for Neuroscience and Ethics, Madrid
Host University: New York University
Field: Philosophy of Mind
Type of Grant: Research

5. Pompiliu Nicolae CONSTANTIN

Home Institution: National University of Physical Education and Sports, Bucharest
Host University: Pennsylvania State University
Field: Sports Diplomacy/History
Type of Grant: Research

6. Valentina COJOCARU

Home Institution: University of Bucharest
Host University: New York University
Field: Sociolinguistics
Type of Grant: Research

7. Andreea Cristiana DIDILESCU

Home Institution: "Carol Davila" University of Medicine and Pharmacy, Bucharest
Host University: University at Buffalo, NY
Field: Dental Sciences
Type of Grant: Research

8. Eduard Nicolaus IRICINSCHI

Home Institution: Ruhr University Bochum
Host University: Princeton University
Field: Religious Studies
Type of Grant: Research

9. Irina Diana MĂDROANE

Home Institution: West University Timișoara
Host University: University of Wisconsin-Madison
Field: Media Discourse/Rhetoric
Type of Grant: Research

10. Viorica Iuliana MIU

Home Institution: University of Bucharest
Host University: Columbia University, NYC
Field: Conservation Sciences
Type of Grant: Research

11. Darie Vasile MOLDOVAN

Home Institution: Babeș-Bolyai University of Cluj-Napoca
Host University: Rutgers - The State University of New Jersey
Field: Computer Science
Type of Grant: Research

12. Livia Elena NICA-RUS

Home Institution: "Ion Mincu" University of Architecture and Urban Planning, Bucharest
Host University: University of South Carolina
Field: Design Education
Type of Grant: Research

13. Ildikó NOVÁK

Home Institution: University of Arts Targu Mures
Host University: University of Connecticut
Field: Animation Theater
Type of Grant: Research

14. Florentina POPESCU

Home Institution: West University Timișoara
Host University: Arizona State University
Field: Geography/Placemaking
Type of Grant: Research

15. Silvana RACHIERU

Home Institution: University of Bucharest
Host University: University of California at Berkeley
Field: Modern History/Ottoman & Greek Studies
Type of Grant: Research

16. Laura STAN

Home Institution: University of Agricultural Sciences and Veterinary Medicine of Cluj-Napoca
Host University: Kansas State University
Field: Nutrition/Food Sciences
Type of Grant: Research

17. Bogdan ȘTEFĂNESCU

Home Institution: University of Bucharest
Host University: Florida Atlantic University
Field: Media Discourse/Rhetoric
Type of Grant : Teaching/Research

18. Marian ZULEAN

Home Institution: University of Bucharest
Host University: Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars
Field: History of Sociology/Intellectual History
Type of Grant : Research

ROMANIAN GRANTEES 2023–2024

FULBRIGHT-RAF VISITING SCHOLAR PROGRAM Agricultural Extension Services

1. Ioan-Daniel CHICIUDEAN

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

Host University: University of Georgia, College of Agricultural & Environmental Sciences

Field: Agricultural Extension Services

Type of Grant: Research & Academic Training

2. Daniyar MEMEDEMIN

Home University: Ovidius University of Constanța

Host University: University of Georgia, College of Agricultural & Environmental Sciences

Field: Agricultural Extension Services

Type of Grant: Research & Academic Training

3. Andreea-Daniela ONA

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

Host University: University of Georgia, College of Agricultural & Environmental Sciences

Field: Agricultural Extension Services

Type of Grant: Research & Academic Training

4. Mihai SUTEU

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

Host University: University of Georgia, College of Agricultural & Environmental Sciences

Field: Agricultural Extension Services

Type of Grant: Research & Academic Training

5. Alina ZAHARIA

Home University: Bucharest University of Economic Studies

Host University: University of Georgia, College of Agricultural & Environmental Sciences

Field: Agricultural Extension Services

Type of Grant: Research & Academic Training

FULBRIGHT-RAF VISITING SCHOLAR PROGRAM Entrepreneurial Studies

1. Delia Anca Gabriela GLIGOR

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

2. Dana LUPȘA-TĂTARU

Home University: Transylvania University of Brașov

Host University: University of Rochester, Ain Center for Entrepreneurship

Field: Entrepreneurship & Entrepreneurial Studies

Type of Grant: Research & Academic Training

3. Robert-Gabriel LUPU

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

4. Carmen Cătălina RUSU

Home University: "Dunarea de Jos" University of Galați

Host University: University of Rochester, Ain Center for Entrepreneurship

Field: Entrepreneurship & Entrepreneurial Studies

Type of Grant: Research & Academic Training

FULBRIGHT STUDENT PROGRAM

1. Antonia Oana AVRAM

Home University: Central European University, Vienna/University of Bucharest

Host University: Harvard University

Field: Cultural & Intellectual History

Type of Grant: Research

2. Laszlo BODOR

Home University: Bucharest University of Economic Studies

Host University: University of Oregon-Graduate School

Field: Non-Profit Management

Type of Grant: Master's

3. Mihaela BOROTA

Home University: Babeș-Bolyai University of Cluj-Napoca

Host University: University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science

Field: Environmental Engineering

Type of Grant: Research

4. Ina DĂNILĂ

Home University: Bucharest National University of Arts

Host University: Rochester Institute of Technology

Field: Arts/Visual Studies

Type of Grant: Research

5. Andrei DINU

Home University: University of Bucharest

Host University: University of Montana-Missoula

Field: Wildlife Biology

Type of Grant: Master's

6. Octavian Marcu FLOREA

Home University: University of Groningen/University of Bucharest

Host University: George Washington University Law School

Field: Information Technology Law

Type of Grant: Research

7. Ioana (SCUTELNICU) GEOMOLEAN

Home University: Babeş-Bolyai University of Cluj-Napoca
Host University: Stanford University
Field: Neuropsychology
Type of Grant: Research

8. Alina MARINCEAN

Home University: Babeş-Bolyai University of Cluj-Napoca
Host University: Boston University
Field: Political Sci/Holocaust Studies
Type of Grant: Research

9. Mădălina MINCU

Home Institution: University of Agronomic Sciences and Veterinary Medicine of Bucharest
Host University: University of Wisconsin-Madison
Field: Animal Sciences
Type of Grant: Research

10. Mihai OICHEA

Home University: West University Timișoara
Host University: Ohio University
Field: English/Creative Writing
Type of Grant: Master's

11. Raul Cătălin OLTEAN

Home University: University of Agricultural Sciences and Veterinary Medicine Cluj-Napoca
Host University: University of South Carolina, Columbia
Field: Agricultural Management/Rural Development
Type of Grant: Master's

12. Dana Rodica SOLONEAN

Home University: Babeş-Bolyai University of Cluj-Napoca
Host University: University of Maryland, College Park
Field: International Education Policy
Type of Grant: Research

13. Florin TELEANU

Home Institution: Extreme Light Infrastructure, Nuclear Physics, University of Bucharest/Babeş-Bolyai University of Cluj-Napoca
Host University: New York University
Field: Physical Chemistry
Type of Grant: Research

14. Alexandra TIMARU

Home University: "Carol Davila" University of Medicine and Pharmacy of Bucharest
Host University: SUNY at Albany
Field: Public Health
Type of Grant: Master's

15. Cezara ZĂGREAN-TUZA

Home University: Babeş-Bolyai University of Cluj-Napoca
Host University: University of California, Irvine
Field: Bioinorganic Chemistry
Type of Grant: Research

FULBRIGHT STUDENT PROGRAM RENEWALS

1. Daria ANGHEL

Home University: Leiden University, the Hague, the Netherlands
Host University: New York University
Field: Arts/Interdisciplinary Studies
Type of Grant: Master's

2. Cristina DARMAZ

Home University: University of Suffolk, UK
Host University: State University of New York at Albany
Field: Criminal Justice
Type of Grant: Master's

3. 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

4. Filip ȘERBAN-DRĂGAN

Home University: University of Bucharest
Host University: University of Oregon
Field: Psychology/Prevention Studies
Type of Grant: Master's

HUBERT H. HUMPHREY FELLOWSHIP

1. Andreea GÂTMAN

Home Institution: EUNEOS, Romania
Host University: Vanderbilt University - Peabody College
Field: Educational Administration, Planning and Policy

FULBRIGHT TEACHING EXCELLENCE AND ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM

1. Carmen-Florina PASCARU (Fall 2024 cohort)

Home Institution: Bogdănești Secondary School, Bacău
Host University: University of Wisconsin-Madison
Field: Media Literacy

2. Dan-Alexandru CHIȚĂ (Fall 2024 cohort)

Home Institution: Secondary School No. 143, Bucharest
Host University: University of Wisconsin-Madison
Field: Media Literacy

2024 STUDY OF THE U.S. INSTITUTES FOR STUDENT LEADERS FROM EUROPE

1. Ecaterina CAPANISTEI

Home Institution: Babeş-Bolyai University, Cluj-Napoca
Host University: Arizona State University
Institute Theme: Journalism and Media

2. Delia LUNGU

Home Institution: "Alexandru Ioan Cuza" University of Iași
Host University: Arizona State University
Institute Theme: Journalism and Media

3. Șerban-Mark POP

Home Institution: Babeş-Bolyai University, Cluj-Napoca
Host University: Arizona State University
Institute Theme: Journalism and Media



The Fulbright Grants

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.

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 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 2023–2024

U.S. FULBRIGHT SCHOLARS

1. Viviana ANDREESCU

Fulbright-University of Bucharest Award

Home University: University of Louisville, KY

Host University: University of Bucharest

Field: Sociology

2. Mihail BĂRBOSU

Fulbright-Universitatea Babeş-Bolyai Award

Home University: Rochester Institute of Technology, NY

Host University: Babeş-Bolyai University of Cluj-Napoca

Field: Mathematics

3. Daniel BEERS

Home University: James Madison University, VA

Host University: Babeş-Bolyai University of Cluj-Napoca

Field: Political Science

4. Elizabeth BELLOWS

Home University: Appalachian State University, NC

Host University: Babeş-Bolyai University of Cluj-Napoca

Field: Education

5. Costică BRĂDĂŢAN

Fulbright-University of Bucharest Award

Home University: Texas Tech University

Host University: University of Bucharest

Field: Philosophy

6. Cyrus CONSOLE-ŞOICAN

Home University: Kansas City Art Institute, MO

Host University: "Alexandru Ioan Cuza" University of Iaşi

Field: Literature

7. David GRACON

Home University: Gonzaga University, WA

Host University: Transilvania University, Braşov

Field: Communication

8. Iuliana ISMĂILESCU

Home University: Pace University, NY

Host University: Bucharest University of Economic Studies

Field: Accounting/Finance

9. Irina MUREŞANU

Home University: University of Maryland-College Park

Host University: National University of Music, Bucharest

Field: Music

10. Joby Kay PATTERSON

Home University: independent scholar

Host University: Babeş-Bolyai University of Cluj-Napoca

Field: Art History

11. Nancy REAGIN

Home University: Pace University, NY

Host University: "Alexandru Ioan Cuza" University of Iaşi

Field: History

12. Florin SALAJAN

Home University: North Dakota State University-Main Campus

Host University: Babeş-Bolyai University of Cluj-Napoca

Field: Education

13. Kai SCHAFFT

Home University: Pennsylvania State University-Main Campus

Host University: Transilvania University, Braşov

Field: Sociology

14. Jeffrey SOMMERS

Fulbright-Universitatea Babeş-Bolyai Award

Home University: University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, WI

Host University: Babeş-Bolyai University of Cluj-Napoca

Field: Political Science

U.S. FULBRIGHT STUDENTS

1. Meghan Margaret ABSHER

Home University: University of Central Florida, FL

Host University: "Vasile Alecsandri" University of Bacău

Field: English Teaching Assistantship

2. Cayla BLEOAJA

Home University: At Large

Host University: West University of Timişoara

Field: Sociology

3. Julia COHEN

Home University: Ithaca College, NY

Host University: "Ştefan cel Mare" University of Suceava

Field: English Teaching Assistantship

4. Marcella FINELLI

Home University: University of Maryland-College Park, MD

Host University: North University Center of Baia Mare

Field: English Teaching Assistantship

5. Jesus GONZALEZ

Home University: The University of Texas at El Paso, TX

Host University: "Vasile Goldiș" Western University of Arad

Field: English Teaching Assistantship

6. Alyssa HEATH

Home University: New York University, NY

Host University: Transilvania University of Braşov

Field: English Teaching Assistantship

7. Raymond HORCHOS

Home University: Villanova University, PA

Host University: University of Bucharest

Field: Political Science

U.S. FULBRIGHT STUDENTS

8. Maryam IQBAL

Home University: Dartmouth College, NH

Host University: University of Craiova

Field: English Teaching Assistantship

9. Catherine JOHNSON

Home University: Davidson College, NC

Host University: Ovidius University of Constanța

Field: English Teaching Assistantship

10. Bridget KELLY-VINCZ

Home University: University of Michigan-Ann Arbor, MI

Host University: Babeș-Bolyai University, Institute for the Study of Minority Issues, Cluj-Napoca

Field: Anthropology

11. William MORRIS

Fulbright Bulgaria-Romania Joint Study/Research Award

Home University: At Large

Host University: University of Bucharest

Field: Political Science

12. Laura NICOLESCU

Home University: At Large

Host University: Babeș-Bolyai University, Cluj-Napoca

Field: English Teaching Assistantship

13. Nancy PELLEGRINO

Home University: Ohio State University-Main Campus, OH

Host University: West University, Timișoara

Field: English Teaching Assistantship

14. Tiffany POWELL

Home University: University of Maryland-Baltimore County, MD

Host University: "Alexandru Ioan Cuza" University of Iași

Field: English Teaching Assistantship

15. Eoin POWER

Home University: At Large

Host University: University of Bucharest

Field: Political Science

16. Oleander REAGAN-ARTEMIS

Home University: The University of Tennessee-Chattanooga, TN

Host University: West University of Timișoara

Field: English Teaching Assistantship

17. Simone SCHULLER

Home University: University of Dayton, OH

Host University: "Lucian Blaga" University of Sibiu

Field: English Teaching Assistantship

18. Keith WAGNER

Home University: The University of Texas at Austin, TX

Host University: University of Bucharest

Field: Interdisciplinary Studies

U.S. FULBRIGHT STUDENTS RENEWALS

1. Amy BIEDERMANN

Home University: Texas State University, TX

Host University: "Dunărea de Jos" University of Galați

Field: English Teaching Assistantship

2. Andreea Gabriela CIOBANU

Home University: Yale University, CT

Host University: University of Bucharest

Field: English Teaching Assistantship

3. James David KNIGHT

Home University: Liberty University, VA

Host University: University of Bucharest

Field: History

4. Nicholas Bronte STAHL

Home University: at large

Host University: Babeș-Bolyai University of Cluj-Napoca

Field: Filmmaking



FULBRIGHT SPECIALIST PROGRAM

Applications approved in FY2024 for the Fulbright Specialist Program

1. Paul John GARDNER

Home University: Luther College, Decorah, Iowa

Host Institution: West University of Timișoara (October 2024)

Discipline: American Studies

2. Brooke REAVEY

Home University: Dominican University

Host Institution: Babeș-Bolyai University, Cluj-Napoca (May - June 2024)

Discipline: Business Administration

3. John A. PARNELL

Home University: University of North Alabama

Host Institution: Emanuel University of Oradea (May - June 2024)

Discipline: Education

4. Sorin Adam MATEI

Home University: Purdue University

Host Institution: West University of Timișoara (June 2024)

Discipline: Education

5. Mark Allen RUSSELL

Home University: Purdue University

Host Institution: University of Agricultural Sciences and Veterinary Medicine Cluj-Napoca (May - June 2024)

Discipline: Agriculture

6. Paul SUM

Home University: University of North Dakota

Host Institution: Babeș-Bolyai University, Cluj-Napoca (June 2025)

Discipline: Public Administration

7. Kathryn Irene KOEGEL

Home University: at large

Host Institution: PRESShub, Bucharest (January - February 2025)

Discipline: Communication and Journalism

8. Costel CONSTANTIN

Home University: James Madison University

Host Institution: Romanian American University, Bucharest (October - November 2024)

Discipline: Physics Education



Fulbright Exchanges in Numbers

AY 2023-2024

96

FULBRIGHT
GRANTEES

52 RO/44 U.S.

GRANTEES BY CATEGORY

Romanian: 52	American: 44
18 Scholars	14 Scholars
5 Fulbright-RAF Scholars – Agriculture	18 Students
4 Fulbright-RAF Scholars – Entrepreneurship	4 Student renewals/extensions
15 Students	8 Specialists
4 Student renewals	
1 Hubert H. Humphrey	
2 Fulbright TEA	
3 SUSI	

1960-2023

3710

FULBRIGHT
GRANTEES

2363

Romanian Grantees

1347

American Grantees



COMMISSION UPDATES

Fulbright ETA Seminar on Media Literacy: Empowering Educators for the Digital Age



From October 25 to October 28, 2023, the Romanian-U.S. Fulbright Commission in partnership with the Journalism and Digital Media Department at Babeş-Bolyai University organized the Fulbright ETA Seminar on Media Literacy, bringing together 55 U.S. Fulbright English Teaching Assistants from 14 European and Eurasian countries: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Georgia, Kosovo, Moldova, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Poland, Romania, Serbia, and Türkiye. The seminar took place in Cluj-Napoca, as part of the International Conference and Training on Digital and Media Education.

The participants were welcomed by H.E. Kathleen

Kavalec, Ambassador of the United States of America to Romania; Prof. Călin Rus, Vice-Rector, Babeş-Bolyai University; Prof. Mircea Dumitru, Executive Director, Romanian-U.S. Fulbright Commission; Prof. Călin Hințea, Dean, Faculty of Political, Administrative and Communication Sciences; and Assoc. Prof. Cristina Nistor, Journalism and Digital Media Department.

The seminar featured prominent educators and experts in media education, including keynote speakers Dr. Renee Hobbs, Professor at the Harrington School of Communication and Media, University of Rhode Island, Director of the Media Education Lab; Dr. Yonty Friesem, Associate Professor of

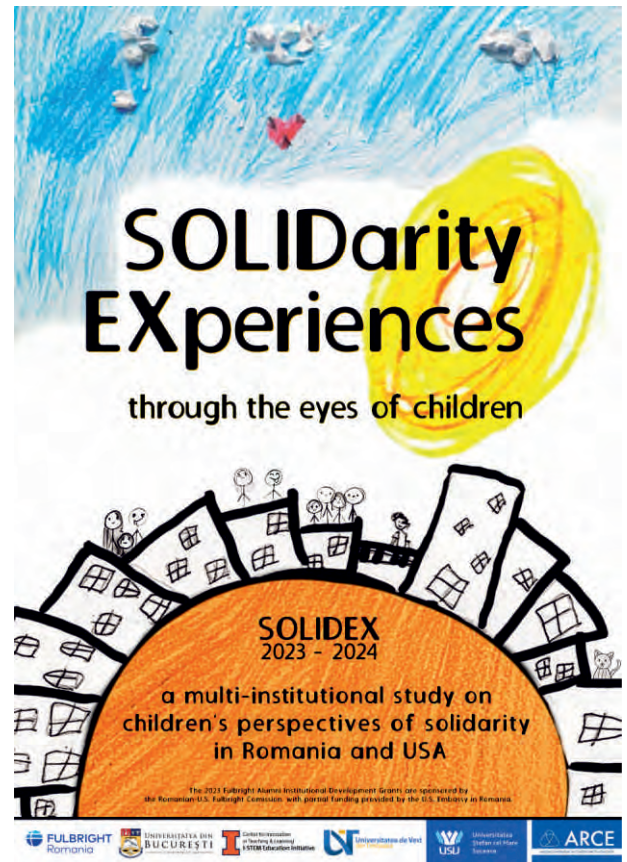
Communication at Columbia College Chicago; and Dr. Hawley Johnson, Associate Director at Global Freedom of Expression, Columbia University New York. They delivered enlightening talks on media education in the era of algorithmic personalization, teaching in the digital age, and civic empowerment.

More details about all the sessions, panels, and workshops organized on this occasion are available here:

<https://fulbright.ro/fulbright-eta-seminar-on-media-literacy-empowering-educators-for-the-digital-age/>.

& GRANT-SUPPORTING ACTIVITIES

Fulbright Alumni Institutional Development Grants



The Fulbright Alumni Development Grant, launched by the Commission in early 2023, enabled the implementation of several projects fostering collaboration between Romanian and U.S. scholars from June 2023 through June 2024. The program invited Romanian Fulbright alumni to apply for funding to develop projects aimed at strengthening Romanian-U.S. academic ties in their home institution.

Out of 21 applications, four projects were selected, each contributing to cross-cultural and educational development.

Dr. Cristina Chevereșan from West University of Timișoara led a program promoting American Studies, engaging U.S. experts in capacity-building workshops

and public lectures, and establishing an Erasmus+ partnership with Virginia Commonwealth University. The project reached over 300 participants, creating a platform for transatlantic dialogue centered on community-building, innovation, and internationalization.

Dr. Cătălina Ulrich Hygum's project at the University of Bucharest focused on exploring children's perspectives on solidarity through interactive workshops across Romania and in the U.S., resulting in educational resources and a working partnership between three Romanian universities and one American university, with a cooperation plan for the next 5 years focusing on participatory methods in research with children,

particularly in STEAM education.

At Babeș-Bolyai University in Cluj-Napoca, Dr. Cristina Nistor organized Romania's first International Conference on Digital and Media Education including keynotes, workshops, and panel discussions with American and Romanian experts. The event drew over 115 participants, catalyzing plans for a second edition.

Dr. Ramona Suharoschi, from the University of Agricultural Sciences in Cluj-Napoca, initiated the AgriTech & FoodTech Innovation Challenge, encouraging student entrepreneurship in sustainable agriculture. This event organized with the help of U.S. experts promoted innovation, entrepreneurial culture, and interdisciplinary collaboration.

Pre-departure Orientation for 2024-2025 Romanian Fulbright Grantees



On June 20, 2024, the Fulbright Commission held its Pre-departure Orientation Seminar for the Romanian Fulbright grantees preparing to embark on their study or research grants in the U.S. for the 2024-2025 academic year.

Distinguished speakers, including Peter H. Brown, Cultural Attaché at the U.S. Embassy, Marta Nedelcu, Diplomat, Department of Cultural Diplomacy, Education, and Science of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Alina Bârgăoanu, Member of the Board of Directors and Professor at the National University of Political Studies and Public Administration, Mihaela Precup, Fulbright Alumna and Associate Professor at the University of Bucharest, and Mircea Dumitru, Executive Director of the Fulbright Commission, opened the event with welcome addresses, sharing their perspectives on the Fulbright program and congratulating the grantees.

The agenda featured panel

discussions and Q&A sessions with Fulbright Alumni, who played a key role throughout the day by providing practical advice, valuable insights and guidance. They also shared personal stories of their Fulbright experiences in the U.S., their transition back to Romania, and the impact of their grants on their professional projects.

John Gimbel, Consul General of the U.S. Embassy, gave a presentation on J&F visas, providing important information and addressing questions from the attendees. Cătălina Popoviciu, Fulbright alumna with expertise in psychology, mental health, and well-being, facilitated an engaging workshop on building emotional resilience in unfamiliar settings.

The event wrapped up with an evening reception at *Casa Oamenilor de Știință*, celebrating the grantees, alumni, and partners of the Fulbright program.

Orientation for the 2024-2025 U.S. Fulbright Grantees



From September 25 to 27, 2024, the Fulbright Commission hosted an Orientation event to welcome the new cohort of U.S. Fulbright grantees. The event brought together 28 Fulbrighters along with their families, with more grantees expected to arrive for the second semester, raising the total to 38 American participants. This year's cohort includes U.S. Scholars, Student Researchers, and English Teaching Assistants (ETAs) engaged in research and teaching across a wide range of disciplines in 14 cities throughout Romania.

The first day of orientation was dedicated to the ETAs, with sessions focused on education and teaching. Dr. Simona Iftimescu from the University of Bucharest presented an overview titled "Higher Education in Romania – Overview and Processes." This was followed by a session on "Best Practices for Teaching EFL and American Culture in Romania," delivered by 2023-2025 U.S. ETAs Catherine Johnson and Ricky Gonzalez. In the afternoon, the ETAs had

the opportunity to meet their university mentors from cities such as Arad, Bacău, Baia Mare, Braşov, Bucharest, Constanţa, Craiova, Galaţi, Iaşi, Oradea, Sibiu, Suceava, and Timişoara.

On September 26, the entire group was formally welcomed by distinguished U.S. and Romanian officials, including H.E. Kathleen Kavalec, U.S. Ambassador to Romania, Mr. Andrei Cosmin Luca, Director of the Department of Cultural Diplomacy, Education and Science at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Dr. Cristina Chevereşan, Fulbright Alumna and Professor at West University of Timişoara, and Prof. Mircea Dumitru, Executive Director of the Fulbright Commission.

The grantees also attended a briefing with U.S. Embassy Cultural Affairs Officer Peter H. Brown, who provided key information on security, consular services, health, and public diplomacy matters.

In the afternoon, Fulbright alumni Dr. Loredana Bercuci, Dr. Mihai Bogdan Iovu, and Dr. Dana Solonean shared their perspectives on academic life



and culture in Romania. Additionally, Prof. Dragoş Iliescu gave a talk on "Emotional Tools for Shaping the Fulbright Experience."

Dr. Mona Moldoveanu Pologea rounded out the day with tips on cultural adaptation. The day ended with a Welcome Reception generously hosted by U.S. Ambassador Kathleen Ann Kavalec and Mr. Mark Taplin at their residence.

The final day of orientation covered logistical matters related to the Fulbright program, including financial details, residence permits, work-related travel, and plans for future group meetings. A 2-hour beginner Romanian language lesson, led by Dr. Mona Moldoveanu Pologea of ROLANG School, followed. The orientation concluded with a visit to the Cotroceni Museum, offering the new grantees a glimpse into Romania's rich cultural heritage.

Winter Holiday Meeting and Enrichment Program for 2023-2024 U.S. Fulbrighters



The Winter Holiday Meeting and Enrichment Program, organized by the Romanian-U.S. Fulbright Commission on December 7 and 8, 2023, brought together the U.S. Fulbright grantees who are teaching and conducting research in Romania this academic year.

The event took place in Timișoara, the 2023 European Capital of Culture, and was

hosted by the West University of Timișoara.

The Fulbright participants seized the opportunity to showcase their primary teaching and research endeavors during their initial months in Romania.

Additionally, they highlighted a wide range of academic and artistic engagements, including public lectures, cultural clubs, poetry

workshops, and involvement in volunteer initiatives.

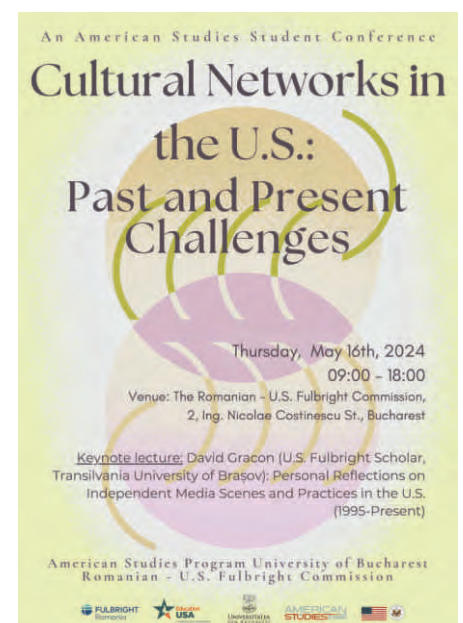
The group also had the chance to see the exhibition titled "Brâncuși: Romanian Sources and Universal Perspectives," showcasing the works of Constantin Brâncuși who is considered one of the most influential sculptors of the 20th century and a pioneer of modernism.

The Annual American Studies Student 2024 Conference

On May 16, 2024, the Romanian-U.S. Fulbright Commission had the pleasure of acting, once again, as 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 "Cultural Networks in the U.S.: Past and Present Challenges".

This year's edition brought

together yet again undergraduate and graduate students from around the country. The participants delivered thought-provoking presentations on topics ranging from neural networks to community performance through spoken word poetry. The quality of the papers and the dynamic presentation style were highly appreciated by the audience.



Final meeting of the 2023-2024 U.S. Fulbrighters



On June 5 and 6, 2024, the Commission organized the final meeting for the 2023-2024 American Fulbright grantees in Romania. The event was hosted by the Multicultural Center of Transilvania University of Braşov.

The group was welcomed by Conf. Gabriela Chefneux, coordinator of the American Studies program, and Prof. Mircea Dumitru, the Executive Director of the Fulbright Commission, along with the Fulbright team.

The U.S. Fulbright Scholars, Student Researchers, and ETAs presented their main teaching and research activities. They also showcased an impressive selection of academic, artistic, and cultural projects and events they participated in, including conferences, public lectures, exhibitions, poetry readings, and volunteering work, and even demonstrated their amazing Romanian language speaking skills. Overall, the Fulbrighters

contributed a significant amount of good work and gained valuable experience, benefiting their Romanian colleagues, students, and friends.

On the second day of the meeting, the group visited the Liberty Bear Sanctuary in Zărneşti, one of the largest animal welfare projects in Europe, hosting over 100 bears on 69 hectares of oak forest.

In the afternoon, the group visited the Migrant Integration Center in Braşov, an NGO that offers integration services for migrants and refugees in Braşov and advocates for their fundamental rights. NGO coordinator Astrid Hamberger introduced the center's important work.

The Fulbrighters then participated in the final meeting of the English Speaking Club conducted by U.S. Fulbright ETA Alyssa Heath and engaged with the center's students.



Program Presentations and Seminars

Below is a selection of events organized for Romanian and U.S. prospective applicants. The insights and experiences shared by Fulbright alumni and grantees played a key role in making these events successful.

October 3, 2024:

The Commission organized a webinar designed for Romanian professors, researchers, and professionals interested in applying for the 2025-2026 Fulbright Visiting Scholar Award.

Fulbright alumni Dr. Laura Stan (University of Agricultural Sciences and Veterinary Medicine Cluj-Napoca), Dr. Dan Gabriel Anghel (Bucharest University for Economic Studies), and Dr. Valentina Cojocaru (University of Bucharest) shared their personal experiences with the application process and provided tips on preparing the project statement and other application components.

August 8, 2024:

Fulbright Romania together with Fulbright Poland and Fulbright Bulgaria co-organized a joint Zoom info session dedicated to U.S. citizens interested in Fulbright opportunities in Central and Eastern Europe.

The participants had the chance to meet representatives from the three Commissions and learn about the grants available in each country, but also to hear from U.S. Fulbright alumni who have recently completed their grants, including Dr. Nancy Reagin, U.S. Fulbright Scholar, Pace University, NY / "Alexandru Ioan Cuza" University of Iași.

ONLINE ESSAY WRITING WORKSHOP

For Romanian students interested in graduate studies in the U.S.

Workshop coordinated by
Andreea Ciobanu

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

Tuesday, April 9, 4:00 p.m.

Join us on Zoom: <https://bit.ly/GraduateEssayWritingWorkshop>



WEBINAR FOR FULBRIGHT STUDENT AWARD APPLICANTS

Romanian Fulbrighters Share Their Best
Practices for a Successful Application

Tuesday, March 26, 4:00 p.m.

Invited Fulbrighters

- Ina Dănilă - Rochester Institute of Technology
- Constantin Radu - Yale University
- Andrei Dinu - University of Montana-Missoula

Join us on Zoom: <https://bit.ly/WebinarFulbrightStudent>





June 26, 2024:

The Commission organized a webinar dedicated to Hubert H. Humphrey Fellowship applicants interested to learn more about the application process. The guest speaker was Andreea Gâtman, 2023-2024 Humphrey Fellow at Vanderbilt University – Peabody College, in the field of Educational Administration, Planning and Policy.

May 16, 2024:

Fulbright Romania participated in the event "Europe and Eurasia Virtual Open House" organized by IIE and dedicated to Fulbright U.S. Scholar potential applicants. In this interactive session, representatives from 10 Fulbright Commissions across Europe and Eurasia were available to discuss their awards and answer the participants' questions.

April 23, 2024:

Fulbright Student applicants had the opportunity to meet Fulbrighters Alexandra Timaru, Master's in Public Health at University at Albany – State University of New York; Dana Solonean, Visiting Student Researcher in International Education Policies at University of Maryland, College Park; and

Laszlo Bodor, Master's in Non-Profit Management at University of Oregon-Graduate School. The webinar, titled "Best Practices from Romanian Fulbrighters for a Successful Application," focused on tips and suggestions concerning the most important sections of the application.

April 17 and 18, 2024:

Four in-person presentations addressing the Fulbright core exchange programs for Romanian citizens were given to the academic staff, Bachelor, Master and PhD students of the Alexandru Ioan Cuza University of Iași and Gheorghe Asachi Technical University of Iași.

It was also an excellent opportunity for the Romanian Fulbright Program coordinator to meet with Prof. Univ. Dr. George Maha, Rector UAIC Iași, and Prof. Dr. Irina Lungu, Prorector International Relations, Gh. Asachi Technical University Iași, and have talks about the study, research, teaching programs for Romanian students and scholars in Iași as well as other topics meant to develop the cooperation and the academic exchanges between Romania and the U.S., through the Fulbright Program.

April 9 and March 21, 2024:

The Commission organized two workshops on graduate essay writing, one in person and another online, coordinated by Andreea Ciobanu, BA graduate of Yale University and Fulbright ETA at the University of Bucharest. The workshops discussed the components of strong essays, analyzed excerpts from successful Fulbright applications and touch upon the most important skills or qualifications to highlight.

March 26, 2024:

The Commission organized another online seminar dedicated to Fulbright Student Award applicants interested to learn more about the program and the application process. The webinar included guest speakers: Constantin Radu, Master's in Public Health at Yale University; Ina Dănilă, Visiting Student Researcher in Arts/Visual Studies at Rochester Institute of Technology; and Andrei Dinu, Master's in Wildlife Biology at University of Montana-Missoula.

Fulbright Educational Advising Center (FEAC-EducationUSA)

ACTIVITY HIGHLIGHTS

1. Outreach

Throughout Fall 2023 and Spring 2024, we conducted in-person outreach in Bucharest, Sibiu, and Craiova. We also accompanied U.S. HEI representatives on school visits in Bucharest. However, we continued to rely extensively on virtual outreach, as a cost-effective means to promote our programs to students across the country. We also attended the Access Masters and QS Master's and PhD Fair in Bucharest. Thus, we managed to acquaint an average 1,000 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.



American Corner Craiova
December 2023

Webinars and Workshops

We conducted monthly webinars and workshops on topics ranging from "Mapping U.S. Higher Education" to "Approaching the Personal Essay", in close collaboration with the American Spaces network. Guest speakers included U.S. HEI reps from a variety of schools and U.S. Fulbright ETAs.

An average 1,200 students from high schools in Bucharest, Bacău, Braşov, Cluj-Napoca, Craiova, Constanţa, Iaşi, Sibiu, Târgu Mureş, and Timişoara joined us online for these events.



Graduate Essay Writing Workshop - March 2024

2. Opportunity Funds Program

FEAC-EducationUSA Romania kicked off the first Opportunity Funds program in Romania in the spring of 2016. In March 2024 we started working with our ninth cohort, made up of three highly promising high school students from Bucharest, Deva, and Brăila. 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.



QS Master's and PhD Fair - 2023



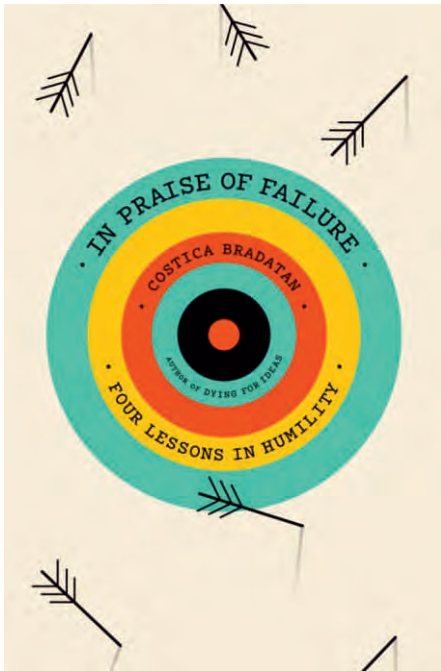
NYU Abu Dhabi presentation @ CNITV, September 2024



Troy University visit @ ICHB Colentina October 2023

FROM FULBRIGHT

Fulbright Scholar Costică Brădăţan Wins PROSE Award



On March 5, 2024, Fulbright Scholar Costică Brădăţan won the Association of American Publishers' PROSE Award in Philosophy for his latest book, *In Praise of Failure: Four Lessons in Humility* (Harvard University Press, 2023).

The PROSE Awards recognize the very best in professional and scholarly publishing by celebrating the authors,

editors, and publishers whose landmark works have made significant advancements in their respective fields of study each year.

Costică Brădăţan is a Professor of Humanities in the Honors College at Texas Tech University and a 2023-2024 Fulbright Scholar at University of Bucharest's Center of Excellence in Image Studies.

Fulbright Alumna @ The Global Health Catalyst Summit



Romanian Fulbright alumna Dr. Mihaela Tinca Udriştioiu participated in the Global Health Catalyst Summit at Johns Hopkins University's Bloomberg Center in Washington, D.C., from June 7-9, 2024. The summit focused on high-impact collaboration to advance global health and development, with Cancer Moonshot 2.0 as the central theme. Dr. Udriştioiu presented on the need to develop a residency program in medical physics and a research

infrastructure in Romania, identifying funding opportunities for education and healthcare.

Additionally, she represented the University of Craiova in signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Global Health Catalyst. The MOU aims to strengthen research and education through initiatives such as a joint PhD program in medical physics, a "Train the Trainers" program, and other collaborative efforts.

Stamped Magazine Launch



On June 12, 2024, the Fulbright Commission hosted the launch of *Stamped Magazine*.

Initiated by Fulbright ETA Andreea Ciobanu, *Stamped* is a creative writing magazine run by dedicated American Studies undergraduate and graduate students. This English-language publication welcomes prose, poetry, and artwork submissions from all

University of Bucharest students, aiming to provide an inclusive space where they can explore their artistic passions alongside their academic pursuits. The inaugural issue features contributions from over 30 students, showcasing their prose, poetry, and artwork.

www.stampedmagazine.com

ALUMNI AND GRANTEEES

Interactive lectures with Fulbrighters

On May 28, 2024, the Civic Engagement Center at the University of Agricultural Sciences and Veterinary Medicine Cluj-Napoca, in collaboration with the Fulbright Commission and Babeş-Bolyai University, hosted the third edition of "Interactive Lectures with Fulbrighters: Sharing Ideas for Global Education."

Organized by Fulbright Ambassador Alina S. Rusu and Fulbright Alumnus Mihai Bogdan Iovu, this event aims to

promote exchange of ideas and good practices in research and education among Fulbright scholars and members of the Romanian academic community.

Guest speakers included U.S. Fulbrighters Rebecca T. Davis from Rutgers University, presenting on "Global Community Engagement, Positionality, and Reflexivity," and Mark Russell from Purdue University, who discussed "Engaged Scholarship of Experiential Learning."

INTERACTIVE LECTURES WITH FULBRIGHTERS: SHARING IDEAS FOR GLOBAL EDUCATION
3rd Edition

When: May 28, 2024, 12:00 to 2:00 p.m.
Where: UASVM Cluj-Napoca, building "Life Sciences Institute", Amphitheatre "Regina Maria".

INVITED SPEAKERS:

MARK RUSSELL
Agricultural Sciences Education and Communication, Purdue University.
Presentation: "Engaged Scholarship of Experiential Learning".

REBECCA T. DAVIS
Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, USA. Presentation: "Global Community Engagement, Positionality, and Reflexivity".

Hosts of the event:
Alina S. Rusu (Civic Engagement Center at UASVM CN, Faculty of Animal Science and Biotechnology)
Mihai B. Iovu (Faculty of Sociology and Social Work, Babeş-Bolyai University).

FULBRIGHT Romania CIVIC CENTER UASVM

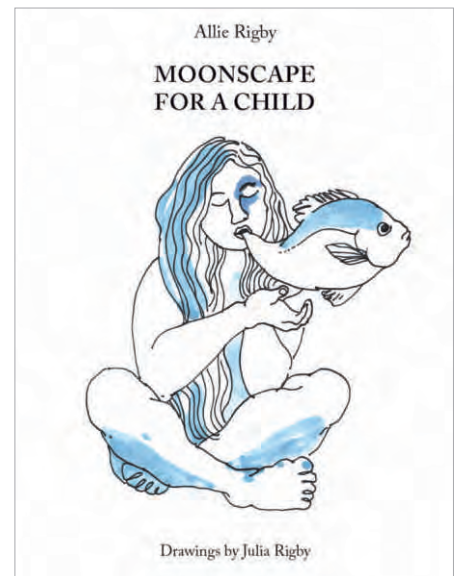
Moonscape for a Child

U.S. Fulbright alumna Allie Rigby published her debut poetry collection, *Moonscape for a Child* (Bored Wolves, 2024).

The volume includes over 40 poems as Allie tangles and untangles perceptions of reality and the question: "What does living well and with purpose mean?" *Moonscape for*

a Child is illustrated by artist Julia Edith Rigby, working in ink and blue wash to convey the merging of psyche into observed landscape and the domestic everyday into the realm of myth and back again.

www.boredwolves.com/product/moonscape-for-a-child



The Role of Narratives

On November 10, 2023, U.S. Fulbright Student Researcher Cayla Bleoaja gave a presentation on the psychosocial role that narratives play on collective and individual levels to students at Ovidius University in Constanța.

The objective of the talk was to facilitate a dialogue on the value of a narrative approach to academic work that conceptualizes humans as meaning-making creatures,

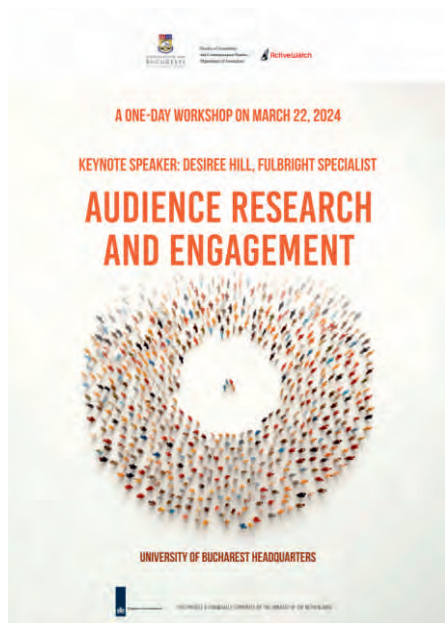
academia as a kind of storytelling, and learners/researchers as story-hearers and story-keepers.

Cayla discussed how narratives influence social judgement, agenda-setting, perception, stability, and change, and how education gives us the opportunity to observe our own role in such interpretations and interactions, and to become aware of the agency we have in narrating our experiences.



The talk, hosted by the American Corner in Constanța, was followed by engaging Q&A and discussions.

Audience Research and Engagement



On March 22, 2024, Professor Desiree Hill, Assistant Dean at the Gaylord College of Journalism and Mass Communication of the University of Oklahoma, and Fulbright Specialist at the Department of Journalism, Faculty of Journalism and Communication Studies at the University of Bucharest, was the keynote speaker at the Workshop titled "Audience

Research and Engagement," organized by the department in collaboration with ActiveWatch.

This one-day workshop brought together specialists in commercial and academic research, media managers, journalists, and journalism students to explore audience research and engagement strategies for news.

National Culture Day at American Corner Timișoara



On January 15, 2024, Fulbright ETA Oleander Reagan-Artemis delivered a lecture for high school students on the life and work of Walt Whitman at the American Corner in Timișoara. Following her talk, Tudor Crețu, manager of "Sorin Titel" Timiș County Library, furthered the discussion and marked National Culture Day by exploring Mihai Eminescu's works. The two poets are connected in their discussions

of identity, spirituality, and nature, and both are considered among the greatest poets of their respective nations. The audience included students from the Fine Arts High School in Timișoara, who created sketches inspired by the poems of Whitman and Eminescu, as well as high schoolers from "Emanuil Ungureanu" Technical College.

Lectures and Workshopping with Students at Ovidius University in Constanța



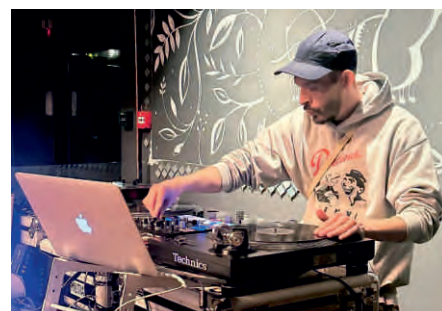
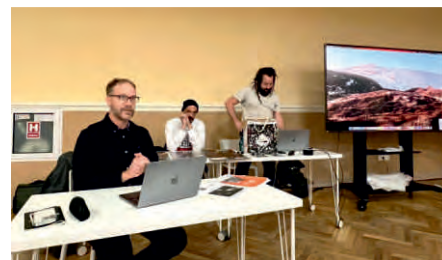
Cayla Bleoaja, Fulbright Student researcher at West University of Timișoara, visited Constanța to meet students from Ovidius University. The event hosted by the local American Corner featured a series of two-hour sessions aimed at helping students writing theses in English improve the quality of their writing, essay planning, and related issues such as brainstorming and time

management. Over forty students brought their drafts and questions about the structure of their paper, the strength of their argument, or in-text citations/references. Several professors and students stayed after the sessions to ask questions and talk about their post-university plans, extracurricular activities, and life in Romania versus life in the U.S.

Exit Strategies: Critical Dialogues and Alternative Media

Dr. David Gracon, 2023-2024 U.S. Fulbright Scholar at Transilvania University of Braşov, launched "Exit Strategies: Critical Dialogues and Alternative Media," a dynamic series of events exploring historical and contemporary issues related to critical media theory and current media practices around the world. Through talks, discussions, media

screenings, and performances, the series examined topics such as hip-hop as a particularly American art form, the vinyl record culture in the U.S., and the intersections of filmmaking, creativity, self-expression, and independent publishing.



Celebrating Women's History Month Across Romania

Throughout March, U.S. Fulbrighters across Romania led engaging events to honor Women's History Month, highlighting the achievements of influential women in history, arts, and science.

In Iaşi, U.S. Fulbright ETA Tiffany Powell and PhD student Laura Stoica from "Alexandru Ioan Cuza" University organized a series of events honoring African American women who pioneered in music, science, fashion, and screenwriting. Activities included a screening of *Hidden Figures*, a discussion on Shonda Rhimes' *Bridgerton*, and a Black Women in Fashion workshop where students created collages inspired by trailblazing designers.

On March 18, Fulbright ETA Meghan Absher engaged 26 students at the American Corner Bacău in an interactive Bingo game featuring 100 influential women across various fields, sparking discussions on women's

achievements throughout history. The event also included a conversation on the history of storytelling, followed by an introduction to Maya Angelou's poetry.

The month's celebrations concluded in Galaţi with a Women's History Month Conference (March 27-29) at "Dunărea de Jos" University, organized by U.S. Fulbright ETA Amy Biedermann.

The program featured student research presentations, a local historian's talk, a screening of *Promising Young Woman*, and lectures by visiting U.S. Fulbrighters Andreea Ciobanu, Keith Wagner, and Julia Cohen, fostering insightful discussions and a strong sense of community among students.



Thanksgiving @ West University of Timișoara



On November 24, 2023, U.S. Fulbright ETAs Nancy Pellegrino and Oleander Reagan-Artemis led a Thanksgiving workshop for the students at West University of Timișoara. The event was organized at the invitation and with the support of the American Studies Center of the

Faculty of Letters, History and Theology. "Thankful Traditions" was an interactive lesson on the history and practice of American Thanksgiving. The participants had the opportunity to learn about the first Thanksgiving and its context within the colonial history of the United States

before learning about modern practices ranging from traditional meals to community service.

The students were invited to create traditional Thanksgiving crafts, such as "hand turkeys" and "disguised turkeys."

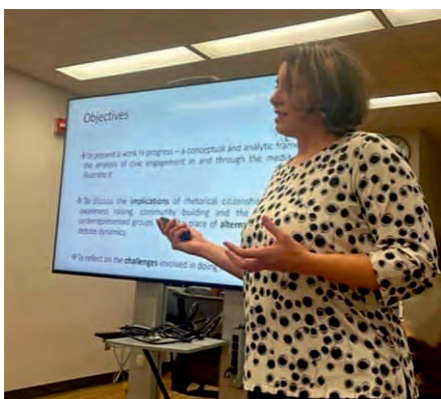
Talk by Fulbright Scholar Eduard Iricinschi at Princeton University



On April 18, 2024, Romanian Fulbright Scholar Eduard Iricinschi delivered a talk titled "When Gnosis Was a World Religion: Henri-Charles Puech and Gilles Quispel at Ascona" at Princeton University. Dr. Iricinschi's talk represented the outcome of the research he pursued as a Fulbright scholar

in the Department of Religion at Princeton University, on "Spiritual Scholarship and the Study of Religion as Personal Self-Improvement in the Twentieth-Century History of Religion" between November 2023 and April 2024.

Rhetoric, Politics, and Culture Colloquium



On October 19, 2023, 2023-2024 Fulbright Visiting Scholar Irina Diana Mădroane from West University of Timișoara gave an invited talk in the *Rhetoric, Politics, and Culture Colloquium* organized by the Department of Communication Arts at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Her talk, titled "Enacting Rhetorical Citizenship in Alternative Media Dispositives: Illustrations and Challenges," engaged the participants – professors and graduate students at UW-Madison – in a scholarly conversation on the discourse and rhetoric of civic participation in Romanian and American media.

Halloween-Themed Workshop at "Dunărea de Jos" University of Galați

On October 31, 2023, Fulbright ETA Amy Biedermann organized her second Halloween student workshop at the Faculty of Letters, "Dunărea de Jos" University of Galați. The students learned about the psychology behind horror movies, practiced spooky-themed American English idioms, played Halloween Bingo, and had a

costume contest. 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. Amy received a Fulbright renewal for 2023-2024 to continue her excellent teaching activities in Galați.



Bridges Between Languages and Cultures

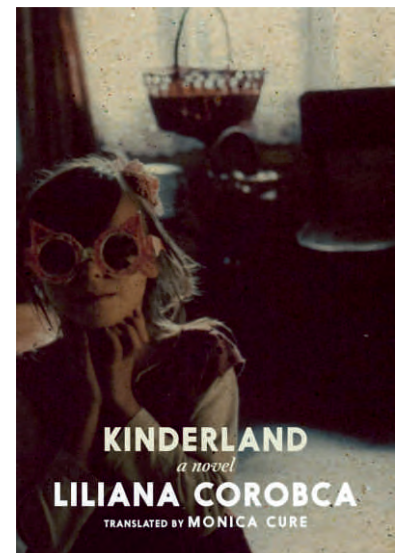
In February 2024, U.S. Fulbright Alumna Maria Rybakova wrote a captivating review of Liliana Corobca's *Kinderland* (Seven Stories Press, 2023) for the *Los Angeles Review of Books*.

In her review, she not only explores Corobca's powerful narratives but also reflects upon the accessibility of literature in translation.

Kinderland marks Liliana Corobca's second book

translated from Romanian to English by two-time Fulbrighter and poet Monica Cure, following the success of *The Censor's Notebook*, which won the 2023 Oxford-Weidenfeld Translation Prize.

<https://lareviewofbooks.org/article/fear-is-a-sickness-on-liliana-corobcas-kinderland/>



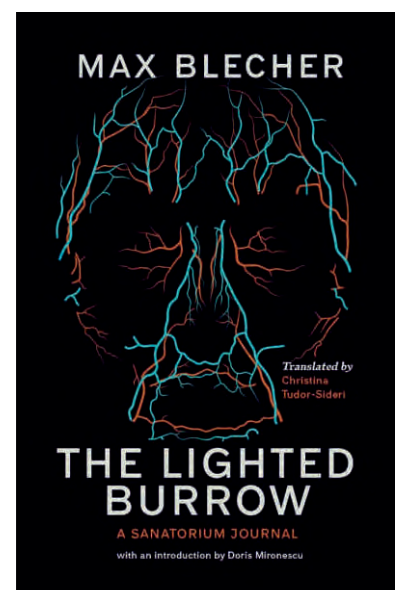
The Lighted Burrow

Mark Mangelsdorf, Fulbright ETA at Transilvania University in Brașov back in 2021-2022, published an essay on Max Blecher's novel *The Lighted Burrow* (Sublunary Editions, 2022), the English version of

Vizuina luminată: Jurnal de sanatoriu.

The chronicle is hosted by *The Chicago Review*:

www.chicagoreview.org/max-blecher-the-lighted-burrow/



Food Systems & Sustainability



On April 5, 2024, students gathered at the American Corner in Constanța for a presentation on sustainable food systems delivered by U.S. Fulbright ETA Julia Cohen.

Participants considered their role as changemakers as they learned about social and economic sustainability initiatives in the U.S. and abroad.

After exploring topics such as permaculture, agroforestry, and food justice, the students applied their knowledge through a compost-making activity.

The Role of Democracy



On April 2, 2024, Jesus Ricardo Gonzales, U.S. Fulbright ETA at "Vasile Goldiș" Western University of Arad, conferred on the importance of democracy as a model and governance system in the development of contemporary society. The event, entitled "Democracy as a Political Process in Contemporary

Society", was part of a follow-on local project for the Kennedy Academy for Students, under the aegis of the American Councils for International Education, and was organized by Kennedy Academy alumna Daria Maria Ștefănuț.

Constanța's Roman Poet



In celebration of Ovid's birthday, U.S. Fulbright ETA Catherine Johnson participated in the spring meeting of Society for Classical Studies' Constanța branch on March 30, 2024. In her presentation, entitled "Constanța's Roman Poet: The Legacy of Ovid's *Heroides* in

Modern Myth Retellings," she discussed how 21st-century American and British writers have incorporated elements of Ovid's poetry into modern novels that retell ancient myths from the perspective of female characters.



FULBRIGHT STORIES



Livia Elena Nica-Rus
Fulbright Visiting Scholar, 2023-2024

"The Fulbright program was my first physical contact with the United States' society, and it was a wonderful experience for me and my family. [...] I particularly enjoyed the sense of community inside the university, everybody being helpful and polite, and the structure that made the work process clear and easy to follow. It's been a great pleasure to get to know better, not just through the media or the film industry, a society which functions well as a whole, which invests in research and earns in innovation."

Dana Solonean, Fulbright Student Researcher, 2023-2024

"There are many different ways in which Fulbright has enriched my life. I participated in classes, workshops, and presentations, applied advanced new methods in my research, and even attended the largest and most important conference on international education in the world. Yet, in retrospect, the aspect that mattered the most was that I encountered an engaged and welcoming academic community."



Marian Zulean
Fulbright Visiting Scholar, 2023-2024

"My Fulbright Scholarship to the Woodrow Wilson Center for International Scholars was a great opportunity for me as a mature scholar not only to pursue my research interest but also to meet a network of world-class scholars and policymakers in Washington, D.C. and to present some of my work to a global audience."

Ildikó Novák
Fulbright Visiting Scholar, 2023-2024

"Thanks to the Fulbright Visiting Scholar Program, my experience was beyond my wildest dreams. When we hear about the 'American Dream,' we can only imagine what it takes or how one could be 'good enough' to be part of that dream. But this journey, offered by the Fulbright Commission, seems to be not only a bridge between cultures but also one between reality and the realm of dreams. Once you find yourself on that bridge, you can feel the most important values of humanity: trust, kindness, stability, honor, care, responsibility, and hope."

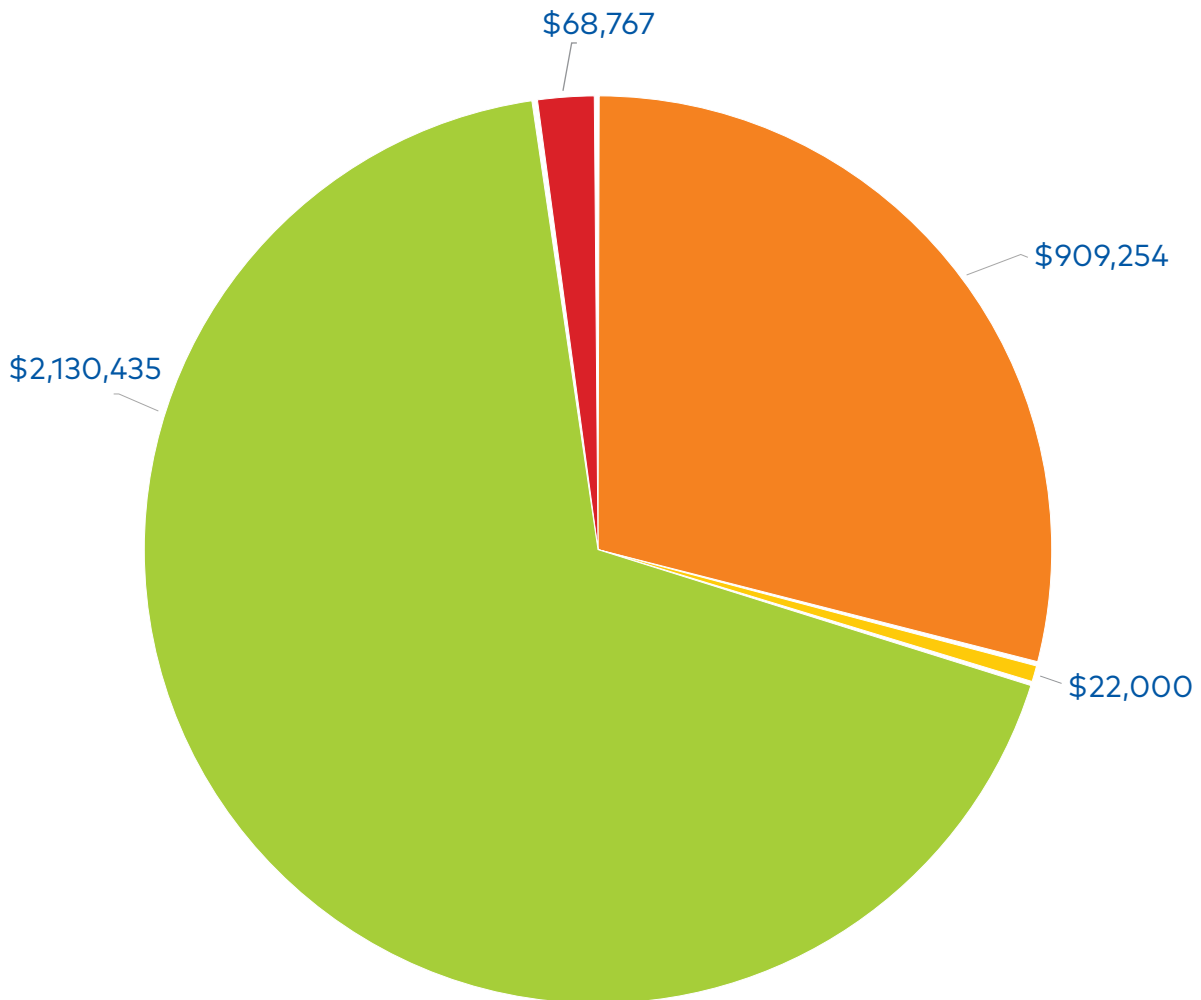


Mădălina Mincu
Fulbright Student Researcher, 2023-2024

"My Fulbright experience at UW Madison, Department of Animal and Dairy Sciences, in the field of animal welfare has profoundly changed my life. I am deeply grateful to my colleagues and PI for their unwavering support and guidance throughout this journey. Their expertise and encouragement have enriched my learning and research experience beyond measure."

FY 2024 BUDGET

In FY 2024 the Commission's total budget amounted to \$3,130,456



\$2,130,435 funding from the Romanian Government (amount received in Romanian currency)

\$909,254 funding from ECA/US Department of State (**\$891,254** allocation; **\$18,000** end of year funding)

\$68,767 funding from Romanian-American Foundation for the Fulbright-RAF Visiting Scholar Program

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

Additional Support:

\$85,000 (estimated amount) - In-kind support from the Romanian Government (office space and utilities)



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