



FULBRIGHT ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL REPORT 2015





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Letter from the President



Looking back on 2015, I'm struck by how innovative the year was for the Fulbright Association.

That innovation started with the very heart of what we do—our mission. For many years our organization has served two fundamental purposes, stated differently year-to-year, but constant in focus. The first purpose is advocating for the Fulbright Program. The second is building on the Fulbright experience and keeping that spirit alive for our members, through chapter events, conferences, and special programs. In the three-year strategy that began in 2014 we added a third fundamental purpose: actively promoting the Fulbright ideals globally through service projects.

Pathways to Peace: It's this third purpose that led to one of our major innovations in 2015: Pathways to Peace. Early in the year we developed the concept of the Pathways to drive our progress in the five core areas: international education, peacebuilding, global health, sustainability, and economic development. We launched the idea at our fall conference and encouraged groups of members and chapters to select one or more of these areas, identify a potential NGO partner already working in the area and jointly develop projects that would improve the lives of people. They'd also have to find sponsors to cover costs. It was something totally new, it was ambitious, and it took a while to percolate. But by the end of the year we had plans and sponsors for targeted efforts in sustainability and global health that would launch in 2016-7. For the first time, the Fulbright Association would be sponsoring hands-on efforts.

Service Corps and Insight Tours: The second innovation also had a service component: we launched a travel program that offers two kinds of trips. In our first Service Corps trips, with the help of NGO partners Cultural Heritage without Borders and Timmy Global Health, our members helped restore stone arches and woodwork in 18th Century buildings in Albania and distributed reading glasses in the Americas. Our first Insight Tour focused on the culture, history, and economics of Cuba, with opportunities to meet with local community groups, artists and experts on Cuban history and economics. The posting of the trip was timely: within days, the United States and Cuba announced renewed ties, and our enrollment completely filled up. For those who participated in all of these activities it felt like a door had opened: the Fulbright Association was providing opportunities for members to reach out and express their commitment to mutual understanding and peace, sometimes years after they returned from their Fulbright Grant.

Chapter Communication: Innovation was happening back home, too. Our 50 chapters create opportunities for members to host visiting students and scholars and help them experience the great diversity of America. In 2015, the Chapter Advisory Board (CAB) was restructured around regions. Regional coordinators, usually also chapter presidents, began to have monthly conference calls to share best practices and debate common issues, and the conversations brought the chapters closer together. The DC-area chapter (NCAC), for instance, shared a template for identifying potential members in each region. Altogether, CAB members shared with each other almost two dozen types of events being sponsored by chapters—from concerts that featured visiting Fulbrighters, to advocacy banquets for local members of Congress, to invitations for visiting Fulbrighters to join alumni families for Thanksgiving meals.

Annual Conference in Atlanta: New things energize people, especially if they touch on the heart of the organization's mission. Our annual conference, co-hosted for the first time by a chapter, was an extraordinary event, held on November 13-14 at the Omni International Hotel in downtown Atlanta. The first evening a remarkable assemblage of Atlanta's political and civil rights leaders, including Andrew Young, made opening remarks. Mayor Kasim Reed pointed out the common link between the goal of the civil rights movement and the mission of the Fulbright Program: a commitment to mutual understanding and peace. The evening ended with Nobel Peace Laureate Kailash Satyarthi's urgent call to allow all the world's children a chance for education.

1946 Society: We closed the year by forming a donor community within the Fulbright Association: 1946 Society, named for the year the Fulbright Program was founded. The response was immediate: by the end of 2015, more than 20 members had pledged to contribute \$1,946 each to the work of the Fulbright Association and another \$1,000 for each of the next two years.

Advocacy: With the support of President John Vogel, Executive Director Jennifer Oxley began to build stronger relationships with Congressional Representatives and Senators and developed a template for advocacy that would roll out in 2016. Joining her as a newly-appointed board member was Max Burns, former Congressman from Georgia, who would head our advocacy efforts in 2016.

I'm still astonished to think about it—new service and travel programs, growing communication across chapters, co-hosting of our annual conference, a new donor community among our members, and a focused approach to advocacy. Somehow the ideas of enterprising leaders among our board, staff, and chapters had taken concrete shape. And they changed us. The Fulbright Association ended the year with a new energy, a growing sense of our own possibilities and a strong foundation for future growth.

With a strong commitment to the Fulbright Association,

Nancy Neill,
President and Chair

Meet the Board of Directors

Executive Committee



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President
Washington D.C.



Philip Rakita
Treasurer
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VP, Development
Oklahoma



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VP, Programing
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Senior Manager,
Outreach & Development



Kim Guarino Bulger
Senior Manager, Marcom



Jennifer Gennaro Oxley
Interim Executive Director



Shaz Akram
Senior Director of Outreach,
Chapter & Institutional Relations



Kamilla Hassen
Manager,
Member & Donor Relations



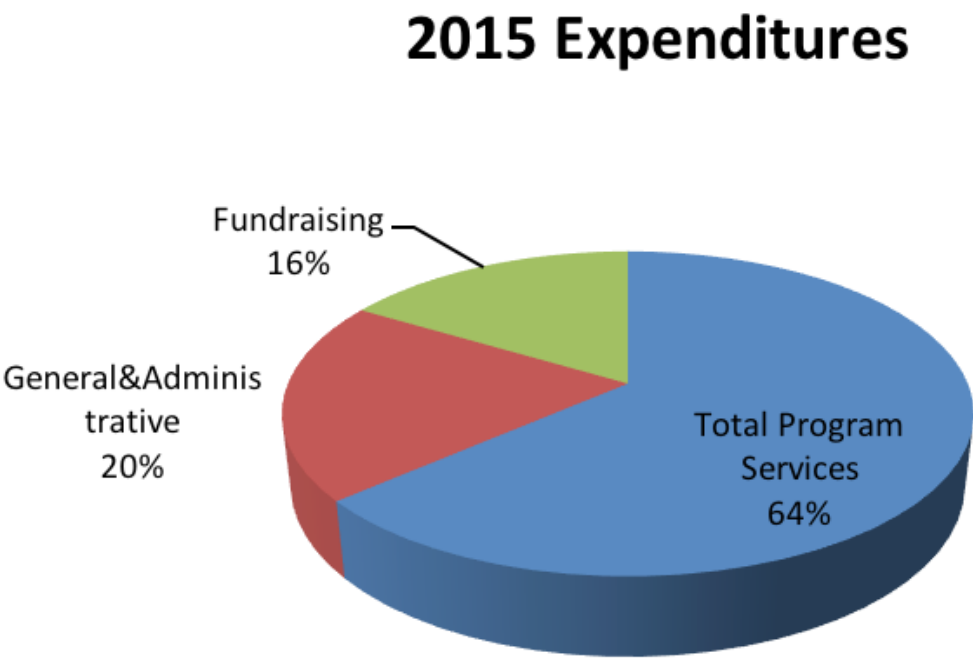
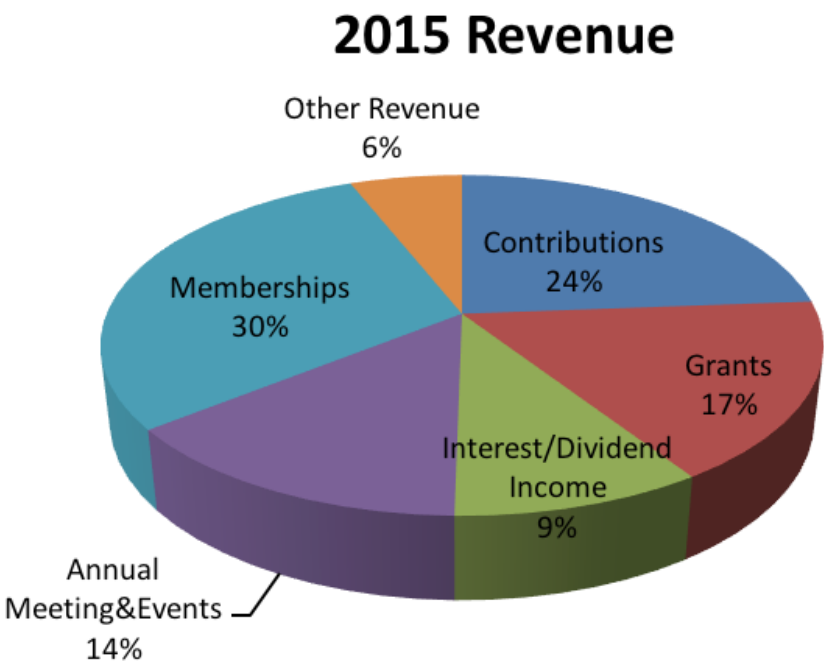
Norma Floriza
Finance Consultant

Washington D.C. Staff

2015 Financials

Fulbright Association Statement of Activities and Changes in Net Assets

REVENUE	2015	2014
Contributions	\$ 249,550	\$ 283,693
Grants	178,194	156,827
Interest/Dividend Income	99,470	105,910
Annual Meeting & Events	146,554	126,039
Memberships	311,850	287,868
Other Revenue	63,027	10,561
TOTAL REVENUE	\$ 1,048,645	\$ 970,898
EXPENSES		
Program Services:		
Annual Membership	\$ 148,162	\$ 119,172
Chapters	68,032	78,566
Advocacy	46,768	18,534
Conference	190,739	156,654
Communications	-	-
Fulbright Prize	827	226,858
Special Projects	41,760	62,493
Grants	99,532	166,402
Total Program Services	595,820	828,679
Supporting Services		
General & Administrative	187,560	186,260
Fundraising	154,173	108,339
Total Supporting Services	341,733	826,679
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 937,553	\$ 1,123,278
Change in Net Assets Before Other Items	111,092	(152,380)
OTHER ITEM		
Realized & Unrealized Gain on Investments	\$ (214,618)	\$ (39,326)
Change in Net Assets	(103,076)	(113,054)
Net Assets at Beginning of Year	3,383,200	3,496,254
NET ASSETS AT END OF YEAR	\$ 3,280,124	\$ 3,383,200



Events

TEDxFulbright: Fights Worth Fighting

In September of 2015, 26 speakers took the TedxFulbright stage from all over the world to share their experiences, their dreams and their visions. Curated by the the national Fulbright Association and the Greater Los Angeles Chapter, the TEDxFulbrightSantaMonica was the perfect platform for spreading ideas worth fighting for.

To enhance the international nature of this event speakers invited participants to think about a variety of projects such as gender equality in India, urban revitalization in Los Angeles, constructing identity construction in the digital age and the changing landscape of international education. Speakers came from, local, national, and international communities and a variety of vocations ranging from actor to CEO filk maker to engineer.

During this full day program, The TEDxFulbright event reflected the essence of Fulbrighters, and the sprit of late Senator Fulbright — spreading mutual understanding between the people of the United States and the rest of the world, sharing ideas worth spreading and fighting against ignorance, prejudice and intolerance within a increasingly connected and multicultural world.



38th Annual Conference: Atlanta

At the 2015 conference in Atlanta, the Fulbright Association brought together prominent Fulbrighters as well as contemporary and historical political leaders, such as Atlanta Mayor Kasim Reed, Fulton County Chairman John Eaves, and Civil Rights icon Ambassador Andrew Young. Keynote speakers included 2014 Nobel Peace Laureate Kailash Satyarthi and former U.S. Secretary for Health and Human Services Dr. Louis Sullivan, who also was the founding Dean of the Morehouse School of Medicine (MSM). Speakers also included health experts such as Dr. David Satcher, the U.S. Surgeon General, and the former Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Topics ranged from long-term solutions to eradicating human trafficking to the short-term refugee crisis in Europe, triggered by the unrest in the Middle East. This Fulbright Association event launched four of the five core impact areas — International Education, Sustainability, Peacebuilding and Conflict Resolution, and Global Health — under the banner “Creating Pathways to Peace” through brainstorming sessions. The Pathways initiative emerged with the 2014 Strategic Plan, which expanded the scope of our mission beyond the traditional mandates of advocacy and providing a strong platform for Fulbright alumni to convene, network, and learn from one another.

Five universities contributed significantly to the impact areas that resonated most with their institution, including the Peacebuilding Pathway. One exemplary initiative arose from the “Water in Africa” panel that included Coca-Cola and Mercer University. That discussion carried forward to our first Service Corps Trip that focused deliberately on the Pathways to Peace concept of taking action in a core impact area: water sustainability. We are now on track to applying for a significant grant from Coca-Cola’s Project RAIN initiative in Africa.

Another new feature of this conference was the roundtable presentation format, which enables many more members from the academic community to present and receive peer review on a given area of research.



Insight Tour to Cuba

In the fall of 2014, one of our Board members, H. Andrea Neves, proposed that the Association organize and sponsor an “Insight Tour” to Cuba, a people-to-people visit as then permitted under the restrictions on travel by U.S. citizens to Cuba.

Since the falling out between the two countries following the Castro Revolution in 1959, Cuba had become for most Americans an unknown land, an unexplored and poorly understood island just 90 miles off the coast of Florida. Cuba could be summarized in three words: Castro, Communism, and Crisis (meaning the Cuban Missile Crisis of 1962).

Coincidentally and fortuitously, on the day we officially listed our new travel program on the Association web site, the White House announced it was taking several steps toward normalizing relations between the U.S. and Cuba. We were suddenly overwhelmed with applicants and the 36 places filled quickly.

In keeping with the people-to-people focus of the tour, the trip included lectures from an economist at the University of Havana and a noted urban planner, and visits to a working artist’s studio, a cooperative garden, a neighborhood polyclinic, a community meeting, and one of the few operating synagogues in Havana. Several Board members who were part of our group also met unofficially with representatives of the U.S. Interest Section at the soon-to-be -reopened U.S. Embassy to discuss possible reinstatement of Fulbright exchanges between the U.S. and Cuba.



Travel with Fulbrighters

The task force developed three types of trips to further the Fulbright ideal of mutual understanding.

Insight Tours began with remarkable success. The eight-day journey to Cuba in April 2015 bonded the 36 Fulbright alumni and friends as they experienced the island in an educational people-to-people excursion. A second journey was immediately scheduled for 2016 with the expectation that CUBA would become a regular destination.

Envision: connected individual alumni willing to join our partner, Timmy Global Health, on journeys to the Caribbean to test and give eyeglasses to those who otherwise had no access to critical health care. Fulbright alumnae raised funds individually in order to be of service in the hemisphere.

Service Corps: We found a partner in Cultural Heritage without Borders, the Balkan based affiliate of the Swedish international development organization. The Tirana office had won the Nostra Prize of Europe for the Best Heritage Project in 2014. The two-week trip gave a dozen alumni their introduction to the many-layered history, cultural influences, and modern challenges of Albania. Centered in a Regional Restoration Camp in Gjirokastra, the beautiful “city of stone,” Fulbrighters learned the tools and methods of historic preservation of Ottoman Era houses, and spent afternoons at work replacing stone archways, or repairing wooden doors, plastering outer walls, or creating the template for planning the renovation for tourism purposes of the third floor “bride room” of one of the great houses of the city. Ismail Kadare and Anver Hoxha both called it home. After a couple days in Gjirokastra, the word spread that these Americans actually came to work to repair part of the city, not just to enjoy the fortress and museum and move on to the next scenic spot. The mayor herself visited the site and made the Fulbrighters famous on her Facebook page. The travel portion of the project began in Butrint, the ancient site on the coast with Greek, Roman, and Illirian artifacts, through Apollonia, to medieval Khorja, and to the worst of the Communist Prisons under Hoxha guided by a survivor who spent sixteen years in hard labor in the remote mountains. The culmination was a day in Tirana meeting the Minister of Agriculture, Deans of the University of Tirana, and the Mayor, ending with a gathering of alumni to share experiences and enjoy informal conversation over the great regional food and wine.

We had found our models for year two of the Travel with Purpose initiative! With these reports, the Board Task Force was enlarged to codify the planning process for a new initiative for the Fulbright Association.

Looking Ahead to 2016

Every year brings the initiatives of the previous year into fuller focus and fruition. 2015 is especially important as a prelude to the 2016 year being planned.

It is a pleasure to present the 2015 Annual Report of the Fulbright Association. The programs and financial reports detail both a transitional year in the 38-year history of the alumni association and an evolving set of program initiatives growing out of mission. The President's letter outlines the several areas of development, engaging life members with new opportunities and connecting to younger alumni of the Fulbright Program. The report depicts strategies realized: the association is active and volunteer-driven in line with the vision of Senator Fulbright—to bring more understanding and peace through educational and cultural exchange.

2016 Initiatives

1 FULBRIGHT AT 70: Celebrating the 70th anniversary of the Fulbright Program, recognizing the year President Truman signed the legislation to utilize the funds from armaments left over from World War II to fund "educational and cultural exchange for peace and understanding". August 1, 2016, Truman signed the legislation with Senator Fulbright looking on with William Brennan who first managed the program for ECA.

2 39TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE: The 2016 Conference planning is already underway. Celebration and examining new challenges will be the focus as alumni, friends of Fulbright, and officials join together in Washington, D. C. Special efforts are being taken to engage fuller participation from young, returning grantees.

3 ADVOCACY: The executive committee of the Board under the guidance of Mary Ellen Schmider, Vice President of the Board, and Max Burns, are leading the effort in planning the first Fulbright advocacy day on Capitol Hill Day, scheduled for April 2016. The advocacy committee having met formally with the Fulbright Commission leadership from several binational countries in NAFSA, in May 2015, enlisted board member Max Burns, and former Congressman and President of Gordon State College to lead the advocacy committee. Joining the FA committee were several of the binational commission leaders in order to share information and planning materials to educate and support wider understanding of the reach and breadth of the "Flagship Program of the United States through the Educational and Cultural Affairs, Department of State.

4 1946 SOCIETY: The launch of the new giving circle in order to provide sustained support for the FA came at the end of 2015. Efforts to publicize the opportunity for fuller engagement

not only financially with a three-year commitment of funds, but through the chance to share the narrative of the Fulbright effect more broadly.

5 TRAVEL PROGRAM: Travel with Fulbrighters under any of the three models planned to expand with more Balkan adventures with CHwB, further exploration of Cuba, and additional locations for Insight Tours. The ENVISION Fulbright program was to continue to engage individuals in several opportunities for service in the Americas and Africa.

6 TEDxFulbright: TEDxFulbright, which operates under a single license held by an officer of the FA, will continue to expand its reach with new ideas worth fighting for, especially by young entrepreneurial alumni. The next one is planned for June 2016.

7 FUNDRAISING: Development beyond 1946 Society will focus on creating a series of salon gatherings to engage long-time supporters of the association through small, sophisticated gatherings.

8 CHAPTERS: The essence of the work the association can accomplish is local: the gathering of alumni and incoming students and scholars under the Fulbright Program, in order to enrich their experiences beyond the classroom, to network for good in local communities, and to explore the rich diversity of the United States. Organization of initiatives through the Chapter Advisory Council increases as its mission clarifies. Chapters are also planning special events and celebrations in observance of the 70th anniversary of the Fulbright Program.

As the Fulbright Program turns 70 in 2016, "Fulbright at 70," will turn out to be an extraordinary year for the Association! Join us in celebrating and becoming part of a more active year, highlighting alumni efforts worldwide.

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