

FALL ALUMNI NEWSLETTER
NOVEMBER 2014

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A Word From The President

For 29 consecutive years, thanks to your kind and generous contribution, the Fulbright Alumni Association has been able to financially assist outstanding Belgian graduate students for further studies in the United States.

We take particular pride in that. The Fulbright organization as such has many sources of funding and is able to award multiple scholarships. But none of these grants are quite as heart-warming as the grant made possible by you, ex-Fulbright scholars, through the alumni association.

Let's make it happen again! If you did not contribute last year to our November Thanksgiving Fund Drive, now is the time to make up for that!



You, as a Fulbright scholar yourself, do not need to be reminded of the tremendous contribution to personal enrichment, for the rest your lives, that a year or more of postgraduate studies or research in the U.S. can procure. It is so much more than a decisive edge in your careers back home.



It is so much more than a way to learn close to perfect English. It is the experience of a lifetime!

It has also become more and more expensive. The average cost of one year of postgraduate studies in the U.S. is now around 70,000 USD.

We must therefore urge you once again to give, and give generously, to the Fulbright Alumni 2014 THANKSGIVING FUND DRIVE.

And last year's tip still stands: the more you give, the more you can deduct from your taxes...

With best Alumnus regards,

Dr. Salomé Cisnal de Ugarte
National President, FAAB

The Commission for Educational Exchange between the United States of America, Belgium and Luxembourg administers several Fulbright Scholarship Programs for citizens of the United States, Belgium and Luxembourg. Grants are available for graduate study (Master's or Ph.D.), pre-doctoral and post-doctoral research, or university lecturing.

Keizerslaan 2 Boulevard de L'Empereur
B-1000 Brussels
+32 (0)2 519.5772

www.fulbright.be

FULBRIGHT
BELGIUM
LUXEMBOURG

Join us for Thanksgiving Dinner!

This year, our annual Fulbright Thanksgiving Day dinner will take place on November 24, 2014.

Location of the event is Restaurant Mykene in Leuven. The cost p.p. is an estimated 50 euros.



If you would like to join us in celebrating Thanksgiving, please register online: <http://www.fulbright.be/2014/november-28-2014-fulbright-thanksgiving-dinner/>.

Fulbright Fall Reception at the U.S. Embassy

On October 15, 2014, The Fulbright Commission for Belgium and Luxembourg welcomed grantees, alumni, donors, and friends to its Fall reception at the U.S. Embassy. In her remarks, U.S. Ambassador to Belgium Denise Campbell Bauer highlighted the continued importance of the Fulbright program and exchanges between Belgium and the United States.





Fulbright Executive Director Erica Lutes joined Belgian PM Elio Di Rupo for a group photo with Belgian Fulbright Grantees.



PM Elio Di Rupo meets Belgian Fulbrighters in New York

Belgian Prime Minister in office Elio Di Rupo held an informal breakfast meeting with Belgian students. A delegation of Belgian Fulbrighters from New York and D.C. attended the meeting. Mr. Di Rupo was in New York for the Annual General Assembly of the United Nations and, despite a busy timetable, he took the time to meet with us and share his memories about his life as a student in Mons and his experience as an international student in Leeds, U.K.

When I received the email from Fulbright announcing that I was invited to meet the Prime Minister on a Thursday morning in N.Y., I did not hesitate more than 30 seconds to say yes. Indeed I am studying at Georgetown in Washington, indeed I have class on Thursday at 7.45 pm, and indeed it's going to be a short return trip to New York. No matter, I am going to make it to New York. Those kind of opportunities are the ones that you should not hesitate to seize. This is the Fulbright experience.

"The most important is what you bring to your community."

I took a bus in D.C. at 1.30 am. I arrived in New York at 5.30 am. I met the PM at 8 am. I left N.Y. at 1.30 pm. I was back in D.C. at 6.30 pm. This is crazy you think? Not as much as the experience itself. Because at the end of the day, along with 20 other students from my country I met with the PM who spoke

freely with us about his experience, his career and his views of international exchanges.

He insisted on the quality and the great assets of Belgian Universities and the recognition of Belgian scientists and researchers around the world. But he also looked back at his own career: "It's all about putting in the work" he says, "we must never forget that the best improvisation is the one we prepared". The PM also talked about the "success": you are successful because the community recognizes your competence. You may be very clever but you still have to interact with the community. The most impor-

tant is what you bring to your community". In that respect, international exchanges matter particularly to him.

And I truly believe that the Fulbright experience helps to build long-lasting bonds and friendships.

Elio Di Rupo then took the time to chat with us individually and to take some pictures.

I personally appreciated the fact that the PM took the time to meet and talk with 20 students. This is a unique moment that I could not have experienced without Fulbright...and that showed me, in one day, what it is to have a minister's agenda!

- Nicolas Vanderstappen

More photos of this event can be found on our Flickr page.

Fulbright. Taking you places you've never heard of, and will never forget.

MORE STORIES CAN BE FOUND ON OUR BLOG:

WWW.FULBRIGHT.BE/BLOG



“You’ve been invited to a Fulbright gateway course in Reno, Nevada”. Most of my friends’ response: “Reno, where?” I, on the other hand, have always wanted to go to Reno, since I have a penchant for the more off-beat, less well known Americana. Reno is like Las Vegas’ less famous little brother, sort of the Donnie Wahlberg of Nevada. Talented enough, just lagging behind a little in looks and success.

The real surprise however, was Virginia City. Located in the Nevada desert outside of Reno, this town used to be the richest city in the world, courtesy of a set of billion-dollar gold and silver mines, back in the 1850 s. Once the gold dried up though, the town lost its shine, and at one point the population dropped to 7. That’s right, single digit. The cool thing about this, is that the city hasn’t really changed. Step onto C Street in Virginia City, and you’re stepping back in time. Minus the tourists of course. There were in fact many Asians in the area in those days, in fact they pretty much built the West, but the Nikon cameras are definitely new.

And this brings me to my point. Many Europeans will claim that America doesn’t really have any history. They’re wrong. Sure, most physical pieces of history aren’t as old. And yes, many buildings are made to look a lot older than they really are. That doesn’t mean there’s no history though, because there’s plenty. It’s just different, and in many cases, it’s more pure and it is carried, protected and lived by the community. Virginia City was and is kept alive by its community of about a thousand residents; they’re the ones preserving the city’s authenticity, while providing the basic services a population needs, in order to prevent their home from becoming a ghost town.

So, Europeans, come here, leave the preconceptions at home, and don’t be afraid to go visit the Donnie Wahlbergs and Kevin Dillons of America, there’s likely to be a gem of an experience waiting for you to live it.

To stay up-to-date with other Fulbright and FAAB events, make sure you register your name and email at www.faab.be

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<http://www.fulbright.be/blog/>

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Fulbright Belgium and Luxembourg Orientation Briefing for U.S. Grantees



Belgian and Luxembourg based American Grantees attended an orientation briefing in Brussels on September 18. The grantees were briefed on life and culture in Belgium and Luxembourg, and on the role and responsibilities of the Commission. Following the morning activities, the group had lunch together in a restaurant on the Grand Place where Fulbright Board Member Jerry Sheridan delivered a lecture on Belgian politics. The grantees finished the day with a walking tour around downtown Brussels.

FAAB Fall Event: Ypres WWI Tour

On November 15, FAAB will organize a World War I Tour to Ypres.

Schedule:

- 9.00: Departure by bus at Brussels North train station
- 11.15: Arrival in Ypres: Battlefield coach tour: northern salient
- 13.15: Lunch in Oude Kaasmakerij – Passendale (drinks not included) – <http://www.deoudekaasmakerij.be/en>
- 14.30: CWXRM workshop (group 1) + walk on the ramparts (group 2): The Workshop: <http://www.comingworldrememberme.be/>
- 15.15: CWXRM workshop (group 2) + walk on the ramparts (group 1): The Ramparts: <http://www.toerisme-ieper.be/en/page/332-336-365/ramparts.html>

<http://www.inflandersfields.be/>

- 16.15: visit museum “In Flanders Fields”: in the Cloth Hall of Ypres – The museum: <http://www.inflandersfields.be/>
- 18.00: Dinner in Ypres city centre: Les Halles (one drink included) – Dinner: <http://www.marktcafe-leshalles.be/>
- 20.00: The Last Post, programme: <http://www.lastpost.be/en/calendar-day/15-11-2014>
- 20.45: Departure
- 22.45: Arrival in Brussels

We leave with a group from Brussels North train station and we will pick up the people who wish to go to Ypres



by train at the train station at 11.15. There is some walking involved in this tour. The prices per person: 5€ for the workshop/7€ for the museum/29€ for the two meals: 41€ pp.

Please register online:
<http://www.fulbright.be/2014/november-15-2014-faab-fall-event-wwi/>

NOV¹⁵

FALL FAAB EVENT:
WWI YPRES TOUR

The Fulbright Commission for Educational Exchange in Belgium and Luxembourg has the pleasure to announce an "Eat & Meet" with Bernard Gustin, CEO of Brussels Airlines. The event will take place on November 24, 2014 from 12:00 until 2:30pm. Space is limited.

Register via: <http://www.fulbright.be/2014/eat-and-meet-brussels-airlines/>

NOV¹⁹

FALL FAAB EVENT:
PALM BREWERY VISIT

Join us for a visit to the Eddy Merckx bicycle factory, the Palm brewery in Steenhuffel and the Diepensteyn stud farm. Departure at 16:00 at Brussel Central station. Cost per person is 30euros per person and includes dinner.

Register online:
<http://www.fulbright.be/2014/november-19-2014-faab-alumni-visit-to-the-palm-brewery/>

NOV²⁴

MEET & EAT WITH BERNARD
GUSTIN, CEO OF BRUSSELS
AIRLINES

The Fulbright Commission for Educational Exchange in Belgium and Luxembourg has the pleasure to announce an "Eat & Meet" with Bernard Gustin, CEO of Brussels Airlines. The event will take place on November 24, 2014 from 12:00 until 2:30pm. Space is limited.

Register via: <http://www.fulbright.be/2014/eat-and-meet-brussels-airlines/>

NOV²⁸

THANKSGIVING DINNER

Our annual Fulbright Thanksgiving Day dinner will take place on November 28, 2014. Location of the event is: Restaurant Mykene, Muntstraat 44 in Leuven. Cost p.p. is an estimated 50euros.

Register via: <http://www.fulbright.be/2014/november-28-2014-fulbright-thanksgiving-dinner/>

DEC¹⁴

COOKIES AND CAROLS

On December 14 from 16:00-18:00pm our Fulbright Chairman and his wife Patrick and Magda Kelley, will host our annual Cookies and Carol event to celebrate the upcoming holidays. This will give you a chance to mix and mingle with members of our commission's board while getting into the holiday spirit.

Interested in attending?
Please send an e-mail to fulbright@fulbright.be for more information.

JAN⁷

OTLET SALONS 1ST EDITION

Fulbright Belgium and Luxembourg are excited to announce the first edition of the "Otlet Salons."

Keynote speaker will be Dr. Didier Caluwaerts whose presentation is titled "Challenges to Democracy in the 21th Century."

Info: <http://www.fulbright.be/2014/january-7-2015-otlet-salons-1st-edition/>