



The WHA Fulbright Quarterly

A publication of the Office of Academic Exchange Programs, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs

Volume 7, Issue 1

February 5, 2019

Quarterly Updates from Washington, D.C.

By Eugenia 'Jenny' Verdaguer, WHA Branch Chief

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Greetings from Washington. So far, 2019 has been anything but business as usual. On January 25, the U.S. Congress passed and the President signed an extension of the **continuing resolution** into law, funding many government operations through February 15, and putting an end to the partial government shutdown that began on December 21. ECA staff was fortunate to be able to continue working during that time due to the Bureau's multi-year funds, but we recognize that many colleagues were not as lucky.

Despite the shutdown and the effect it had on our activities, there is much to report this quarter. In recent months, ECA and IIE have analyzed and assessed the **U.S. Scholar application and selection timeline, as well as the peer review process**. In the upcoming competition cycle, the application deadline will be pushed back to September 16, and we will streamline the peer review process by giving the discipline review a greater role. More information is included on page 2.

In early March, ECA will convene a meeting about the Fulbright ETA Program with a

small group of Executive Directors and U.S. Embassy staff from all world regions. The group will discuss best practices and expectations for selection, orientation, monitoring, and in-country support of ETAs. Commission EDs from Brazil, Colombia, Mexico and Peru will represent the Western Hemisphere programs. The meetings will also include IIE staff and Fulbright Program Advisers from U.S. colleges and universities. We look forward to sharing the recommendations and good practices that emerge from this discussion with all of you.

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Events and Deadlines

Feb 1: FY 2019 Visiting Scholar Program application deadline

Feb 1: FY 2020 U.S. Scholar Program competition opened

Feb 4-5: IIE hosts webinars about Partner Portal and DS2019 season

Feb 11-15: U.S. Study/Research Student Arrival Orientation in São Paulo, Brazil

Feb 18-22: ETA Enrichment Seminar in Quito, Ecuador

Feb 18-22: ETA Arrival Orientation in São Paulo, Brazil

Feb 26-Mar 1: Binational Business Enrichment Seminar in Huasca de Ocampo, Mexico

Feb 11-15: ETA Mid-year Enrichment Seminar in Campeche, Mexico

Feb 28: Alumni Engagement Innovation Fund submission deadline

Mar 11-15: ETA Arrival Orientation in Lima, Peru

Mar 7-8: ETA Program Meeting in Washington, D.C.

Mar 18-22: U.S. Student Arrival Orientation in Buenos Aires, Argentina

Mar 31-Apr 5: Study/Research Student Enrichment Seminar in Lima, Peru

Apr 1: FY 2020 U.S. Student competition opens

Apr 8-12: U.S. Study/Research Student Enrichment Seminar in Guatemala City, Guatemala

BRAZIL

As part of an effort to assist their fellow Fulbrighters with the transition into life after Fulbright, Fulbright ETAs David J. González and Karl Schneider created a [LinkedIn group](#) (Fulbran) that promises to serve as a job board, platform for publishing a monthly cohort newsletter, alumni spotlights, webinars, and a place to promote regional alumni events. They hope that this group, together with a searchable database they created using an alumni survey, will assist Fulbright U.S. alumni in identifying their next steps personally and professionally and help make meaningful connections between recent cohorts of Fulbright ETAs in Brazil.

Fulbright English Teaching Assistants to Brazil Laura Reilly and Alejandra Aguilar have developed a **mentorship and STEM education program** called [ImaginaMundo](#) (Imagine the World), which connects university students learning English in a variety of disciplines with middle and high school public school students in their local community of Pato Branco, Parana. With the help of the ETAs, university students plan and deliver workshops in English, developing their own skills while exposing younger students to topics like Computer Science, Physics and Engineering, and modeling a path that includes higher education. As the program has grown, they have added a community service element to take student volunteers beyond the classroom.



Fulbright Visiting Student alumna **Joênia Batista de Carvalho** received the **2018 United Nations Prize in the Field of Human Rights** for her activism for the rights of indigenous communities. She took a land dispute to the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights and later became the first indigenous lawyer to appear before the Supreme Court of Brazil. In 2013, she was appointed as the first president of the National Commission for the Defense of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. Ms. Batista de Carvalho earned her LLM at the University of Arizona in 2010 after participating in an intensive English pre-academic program. She is the first female indigenous lawyer in Brazil and a member of the Wapichana tribe.

In response to the devastating fire at the National Museum in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, the Fulbright Commission partnered with PAS Brasilia to bring 14 researchers from the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro to the United States (pictured below) whose projects were dependent on the museum's now destroyed collections. In partnership with the **Smithsonian Institutions**, these researchers will be spending up to a year in the United States completing research that would otherwise not be possible. The partnership and grant recipients were named during a ceremony near the museum site on December 17, 2018.

The Fulbright Commission in Brazil has also collaborated with Fulbright Alumnus Marcos Lopes, a former employee at the museum, on an **advocacy campaign to support the museum** through an official letter and on social media, using the hashtag **#MinhaMemoriaNoMuseuNacional** (My Memory at the National Museum).

