

VISITING COLUMNIST: AMBASSADOR OF THE UNITED STATES TO FINLAND

THE  
**News**  
FULBRIGHT FINLAND

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# The Power of Partnerships

Three New Award Programs Created by Partnerships

Addressing Today's Most Pressing Global Challenges

Discussing Science Diplomacy

BIANNUAL MAGAZINE PUBLISHED BY THE FULBRIGHT FINLAND FOUNDATION



# The Power of Partnerships



There is spectacular power in working together. Our U.S. grantees experienced this quite concretely when trying out a Finnish 14-oar rowing boat during their arrival orientation in August (p. 1). Oars initially swinging in disarray, the rowers learned to adjust their efforts, synchronize their movement and pace, and agree on direction. They became a team, effortlessly gliding over the bay. A rowing boat is a simple but descriptive metaphor for teamwork that also applies to partnerships. The entire operation of the Fulbright Finland Foundation is based on working together with partners who share our mission. Together we achieve more than any of us could on our own.

This issue is dedicated to partnerships. Our visiting columnist, H.E. Ambassador **Douglas T. Hickey**, talks about the partnership between Finland and the U.S. and calls for enhancing connections and increasing exchanges through the Fulbright Finland Foundation (p. 3).

We are thrilled to announce the expansion of our valued partnership network by three new strategic agreements. The joint grant with the Idman Founda-

tion provides its Finnish student grantees with fully funded Master’s degrees in the U.S. (p. 5). The partnership with the University of Oulu offers unique opportunities for U.S. scholars to conduct research and teach at one of the world’s northernmost science universities (p. 4). And our agreement with Florida Polytechnic University will fund a dedicated Visiting Research Chair for Finnish scholars in science and technology (p. 6). The new Bruce A. Fowler Fund and gifts from all our donors allow us to advance our joint goal of providing more support and more scholarships for qualified grantees on both sides of the Atlantic (p. 20–21).

As the year 2022 draws to a close, we convey our gratitude to our partners and donors, and everyone working side-by-side with us. It is together with our partners that we are getting ready to announce new initiatives and opportunities in transatlantic exchanges. Stay tuned for 2023!

**Terhi Mölsä**  
Chief Executive Officer  
Fulbright Finland Foundation

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During the orientation seminar, the U.S. Fulbrighters tried out a Finnish 14-oar rowing boat.

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Cover photo: Karoliina Kokko

# Addressing Today's Most Pressing Global Challenges



The Fulbright Finland Foundation is one of our greatest allies in supporting cross-cultural ties and academic cooperation.

**T**he year 2022 has been remarkable in the U.S.-Finnish relationship. Finland and the United States share a long history as dependable partners and this year has shown that our bonds are stronger than ever.

Finland's steadfast support for Ukraine against Russia's unprovoked and unjustified war has been a testament to our shared commitment to protecting democracy, human rights, and the rule of law. Our cooperation to address climate change challenges and counter disinformation have likewise reinforced Transatlantic security. I look forward to welcoming Finland as a NATO Ally soon. Collaboration in the Arctic, trade and investment, and shared research and innovation on emerging technologies between the United States and Finland are robust and growing.

**EDUCATIONAL EXCHANGES** have played a pivotal role in deepening our ties. I was pleased to see Finland double the number of higher education and science counselors in the United States this year. The relationships that develop from this investment will support internationalization, advance research, and enhance business opportunities. Over the last few months, I've also had the opportunity to visit multiple universities across Finland and I've been impressed with the top-notch research facilities and strong interest in strengthening academic research and collaboration with the United States. I hope we can continue to build these connections through the Fulbright Finland Foundation.

It is clear that solving global issues will require bright minds and committed talent, working together, and sharing best practices. The Fulbright Program is the flagship exchange program between Finland and the United States, and as such, the Fulbright Finland Foundation is one of our greatest allies in supporting cross-cultural ties and academic

cooperation. As honorary chair of the Foundation Board, I appreciate the opportunities to meet with current exchange participants, alumni, board members, and Foundation staff to learn about their innovative projects and the tremendous impact Fulbrighters have on their communities.

**THE FULBRIGHT FINLAND PROGRAM**, of course, is so much more than a traditional exchange. It is an interface between the United States and Finland. Fulbright has been described as an "avenue of hope" connecting more than 6 000 American and Finnish students, scholars, and professionals since the inception of the program more than 70 years ago. At the same time, I consider Fulbrighters to be trail blazers, embodying the principles and values that are needed now, more than ever, to shape a shared, democratic future.

I am thankful for the generous investments made this year to the Fulbright Finland Foundation by its partners and donors. Among them, the Bruce A. Fowler Fund will provide additional support for Fulbrighters with disabilities, and the Idman Foundation will support awards for master's study in the United States. I recently traveled to Tampere to participate in an Idman Foundation event to announce the scholarship. These and other new partnerships will allow us to advance our goal of providing even more scholarships for qualified grantees on both sides of the Atlantic.

As we approach 2023, I am hopeful for what lies ahead. Whatever realities we may face as a global community, whether they present challenges or opportunities, Fulbrighters will continue to lead and work together to address today's most pressing global challenges.

**Douglas T. Hickey**

Ambassador of the United States to Finland

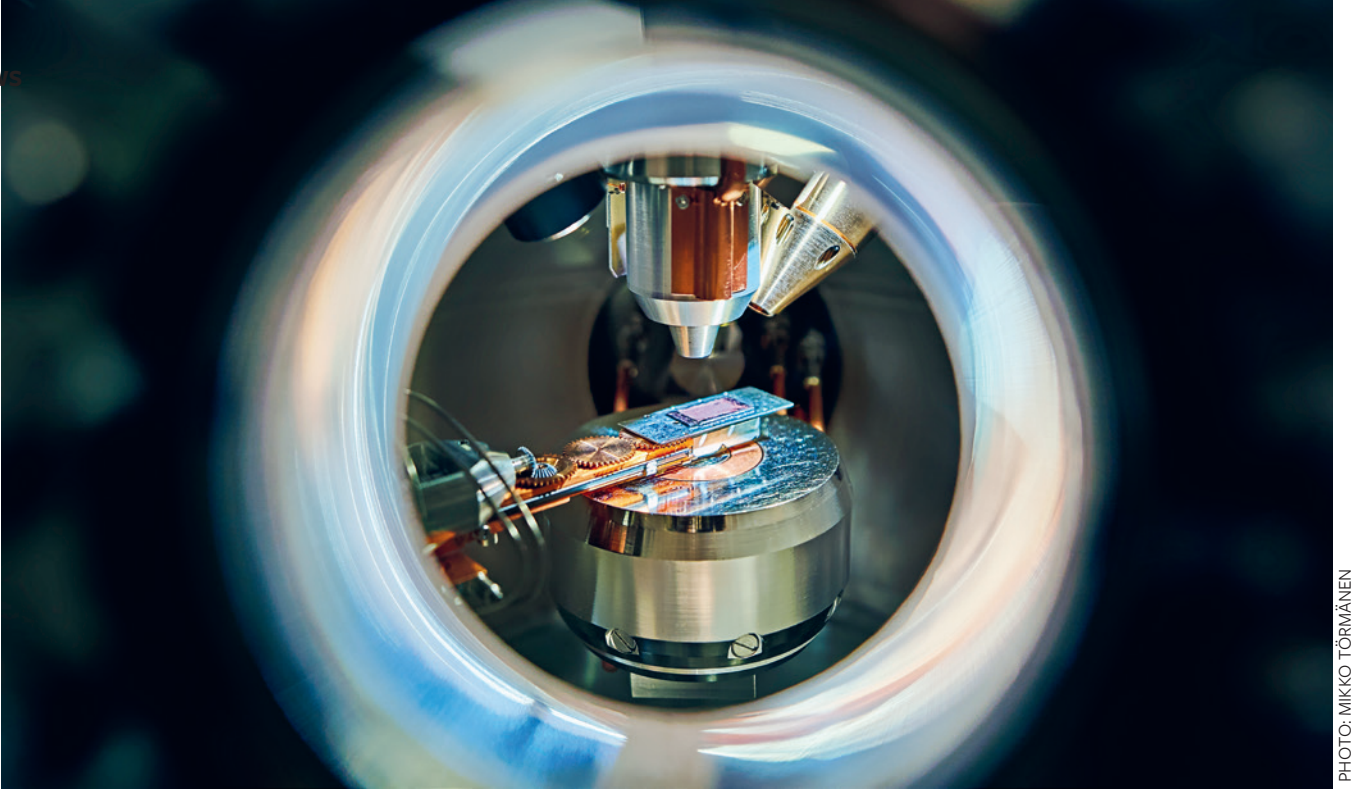


PHOTO: MIKKO TÖRMÄNEN

# Fulbright Finland Foundation and the University of Oulu Sign a Partnership Agreement

Text EMMI JELEKÄINEN

The Fulbright Finland Foundation is pleased to announce its partnership with the University of Oulu, launching the Fulbright-University of Oulu Scholar Award. This collaboration opens a new and exciting opportunity for U.S. scholars to conduct research and teach at one of the northernmost international science universities in the world.

The new Award funds visits of 3-9 months, and it can be awarded in any field represented at the University of Oulu. The university has eight faculties and five interdisciplinary research focus areas that are directly linked to the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals, giving it a unique profile: sustainable materials and systems, lifelong health, digitalization and smart society, changing climate and northern environment, and understanding humans in change. As one of the northernmost universities in the world, the university is particularly well-placed to study questions related to the Arctic.

“Our two institutions have a long history of fruitful collaboration in a broad range of programs and initiatives. The University of Oulu has, for instance, twice served as the host for the international plenary week for researchers in the Fulbright Arctic Initiative. Working with the University of Oulu has always been seamless, and we are thrilled to further strengthen the collaboration with a long-

## FULBRIGHT-UNIVERSITY OF OULU SCHOLAR AWARD

The application round for visits during the academic year 2024-25 will open in early February 2023.

Read more about the award and how to apply  
[www.fulbright.fi/fulbright-university-oulu-scholar-award](http://www.fulbright.fi/fulbright-university-oulu-scholar-award)

University of Oulu: [www.oulu.fi/en](http://www.oulu.fi/en)

term partnership agreement,” says the Foundation CEO **Terhi Mölsä**.

“We are very pleased to deepen our long-standing relationship with the Fulbright Finland Foundation. This agreement demonstrates our commitment to enhancing our relationships and visibility within the U.S scientific community. We are delighted to welcome talented Fulbright scholars to the university to collaborate and create scientific and societal impact together,” says **Jouko Niinimäki**, Rector of the University of Oulu.

The University of Oulu award is the newest addition to the Fulbright U.S. Scholar Awards to Finland that offer U.S. scholars opportunities to teach and conduct research at Finnish higher education and research institutions. The application round for visits during the academic year 2024-25 will open in early February 2023.



PHOTO: U.S. EMBASSY FINLAND



The new partnership award was launched at the Tampere Hall in December. In the photo: **Ilkka Kaakkolampi**, CEO of the Idman Foundation; Ambassador of the United States **Douglas T. Hickey**; **Kari Lahtinen**, Chair of the Idman Foundation Board; **Terhi Mölsä**, CEO of the Fulbright Finland Foundation.

## Idmanin säätiö ja Fulbright Suomi -säätiö tarjoavat ainutlaatuisen mahdollisuuden opiskeluun Yhdysvalloissa

**U**usi stipendiohjelma mahdollistaa koko tutkinnon suorittamisen Yhdysvalloissa. Idmanin säätiön ja Fulbright Suomi -säätiön yhdessä tuottamaan ohjelmaan sisältyy mitätavan apurahan lisäksi opiskeluja tukevia palveluja. Ohjelmaan voivat hakea kaikki kandidaatin tutkinnon suorittaneet opiskelijat, jotka ovat valmistuneet ylioppilaaksi Tampereen seudulta.

Yliopiston lukuvuosimaksuun ja elinkustannuksiin tarkoitettu apuraha on enimmillään 140 000 dollaria kahdeksi vuodeksi. Apurahan lisäksi opiskelijoita valmennetaan yliopistoihin hakemisessa, ja opiskelupaikan selvittyä tuetaan käytännön asioissa, kuten viisumin hankkimisessa.

60-vuotias Idmanin säätiö jakaa vuosittain 700–900 noin 2 000 euron suuruista apurahaa Tampereen seudun opiskelijoille. Jo vuonna 1949 toimintansa aloittanut Fulbright Suomi -säätiö puolestaan tukee suomalais-amerikkalaista koulutus-, tutkimus- ja innovaatioyhteistyötä sekä korkeakoulujen kansainvälistymistä erilaisten stipendiohjelmien sekä koulutuspalvelujen avulla. Uusi stipendiohjelma yhdistää säätiöiden voimavarat, verkostot ja osaamisen luoden ainutlaatuisen mahdollisuuden opiskelijoille. Haku ohjelmaan avataan vuoden 2023 alussa.

”Olen erittäin tyytyväinen päästessämme täydentämään apurahaohjelmaamme tällä uudella avauksella yhdessä Fulbright Suomi -säätiön kanssa”, sanoo Idmanin säätiön hallituksen puheenjohtaja **Kari Lahtinen**.

”Uusi ohjelma on investointi Suomelle tärkeään tiedon ja osaamisen kehittämiseen ja kansainväliseen koulutukseen”, sanoo Fulbright Suomi -säätiön toimitusjohtaja **Terhi Mölsä**.

Idmanin säätiö on perustettu lääkintöneuvos **G. R. Idmanin** ja ministeri **K. G. Idmanin** testamenttien perusteella 1.2.1962. Säätiön tarkoituksena on jakaa opintoapurahoja Tampereella tai Tampereen alueella (Kangasala, Lempäälä, Nokia, Orivesi, Pirkkala, Ylöjärvi) ylioppilastutkinnon suorittaneille korkeakoulussa opintojaan jatkaville opiskelijoille.

[www.idmaninsaatio.fi](http://www.idmaninsaatio.fi)

### Partnership with the Idman Foundation Creates a Unique Fulbright Award

**T**he Fulbright Finland Foundation is delighted to announce its partnership with the Idman Foundation creating a new Fulbright award for Master’s degree studies in the United States. The new award is a unique addition to the Finnish Fulbright Graduate Student Program. It provides funding up to USD 140 000 per student for the purpose of completing a full Master’s degree in the United States.



PHOTO: FLORIDA POLYTECHNIC UNIVERSITY

## Partnership with Florida Polytechnic University Creates a New Visiting Chair in STEM

The Fulbright Finland Foundation and Florida Polytechnic University have signed a memorandum of understanding to allow for the development of new international research collaborations between the University and Finland. The partnership creates a new Fulbright Visiting Chair award for Finnish researchers and scholars to conduct research at the University and work with its students and faculty. Florida Polytechnic University is the only state university in Florida dedicated exclusively to STEM education.

“I am delighted to open this new opportunity with Florida Polytechnic University,” the Foundation CEO **Terhi Mölsä** said. “Our researchers will now have another strong partner in furthering their work in fields such as engineering and technology.”

“It’s very gratifying to see the tremendous growth of Florida Poly’s reputation as an outstanding international research partner,” said Dr. **Randy Avent**, President of the Florida Polytechnic Univer-

sity. “Our agreement with the Fulbright Finland Foundation will drive our University community toward even greater exposure to global research and ideas while providing exceptional academic opportunities for local and Finnish scholars.”

“The Finnish education system is one of the best education systems in the world,” said **Mustapha Achoubane**, Associate Director of International Relations at Florida Poly. “This collaboration will boost our efforts toward attracting intellectual capital to better serve the University, region, and the state of Florida at large.”

The new Visiting Chair is co-funded by Florida Polytechnic in partnership with the Foundation. The Chair is focused on research pertaining to any of the following general subject areas: computer science, computer engineering, data science, electrical engineering, environmental engineering, mechanical engineering, and autonomous vehicles.

[www.fulbright.fi/fulbright-visiting-chair-florida-polytechnic-university](http://www.fulbright.fi/fulbright-visiting-chair-florida-polytechnic-university)

<https://floridapoly.edu>

## VTT and Fulbright Finland Renewed Cooperation Agreement

VTT Technical Research Centre of Finland and the Fulbright Finland Foundation have renewed their cooperation agreement for the Fulbright-VTT Award in Science, Technology and Innovation program. The agreement was signed during the Fulbright Finland Foundation Board meeting that was hosted by VTT in their premises in Otaniemi.

VTT and the Foundation have partnered in grant programs since 2005. In total, VTT has hosted 18 awardees. During this academic year, the joint program will bring three more U.S. scholars to work with different research groups at VTT. **Hui Yang** from the Pennsylvania State University has already arrived and started working with



PHOTO: ERIKA HOLT

the Cognitive Production Industry research area. **William Collins** from the University of Kansas and **Jie Zhang** from the University of Texas at Dallas will begin their visits in January 2023.

“This is a unique opportunity to build scientific collaboration with U.S. experts and organisations. Fulbright visits have also created a base for future collaboration,” says VTT’s Senior Vice President of Human Resources **Kirsi Nuotto**.

The agreement was signed by **Marko Koistila**, Executive Vice President of Commercial Operations at VTT, and **Terhi Mölsä**, Chief Executive Officer of the Fulbright Finland Foundation in October.

[www.fulbright.fi/vtt-scholar](http://www.fulbright.fi/vtt-scholar)

# Multi-Country Projects Brought Three U.S. Scholars to Finland

Text MAIJA KETTUNEN



Cara Djonko-Moore



Qinhong Hu



Michael Putman

[www.fulbright.fi/global-scholar](http://www.fulbright.fi/global-scholar)

Three U.S. scholars conducted their research projects in Finland with a Fulbright Global Scholar Award this year. This award program is relatively new: Associate Professor **Cara Djonko-Moore** from Rhodes College, Memphis, Professor **Qinhong Hu** from the University of Texas at Arlington, and Professor **Michael Putman** from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte were the first scholars to come to Finland on this program.

The Fulbright Global Scholar Award Program allows U.S. academics and professionals to engage in multi-country, trans-regional projects. Global Scholars are able to pursue research, or combined teaching and research activity in two to three countries with flexible schedule options. This year's scholars kick-started their projects in Finland with the Foundation's four-day orientation seminar in Helsinki in August, or the subsequent two-day Fulbright seminar in Turku in October.

Cara Djonko-Moore explored how teacher educators prepare teachers to use culturally responsive strategies with culturally and linguistically diverse children and students. She was hosted by the Rauma campus of the University of Turku.

"Traveling to Finland to study teacher education was the fulfillment of my professional dream as a scholar," Cara Djonko-Moore says. "I have made friendships and collaborative relationships that will last a lifetime, and my students will directly benefit from what I've learned. I will have an opportunity to share some results from my research in April 2023 at the annual American Educational Research Association (AERA) conference in Chicago, and I've been invited to collaborate on a new project with faculty from the teacher education program in Rauma," she adds.

Qinhong Hu's research at the University of Helsinki focused on high-level nuclear waste repository, shale petroleum development, and groundwater resource protection.

"With a topic in energy geosciences, I have fully achieved the objectives of this program by delivering four scientific presentations at different organizations, interacting with dozens of faculty members, scientists, and graduate students, elevating the concrete collaboration in terms of sample analyses by complementary methods, data interpretation for paper publication, and project development, visiting the world's first geological repository, as well as being exposed to the Finnish culture and sight-seeing of a beautiful country," Qinhong Hu says.

Michael Putman was hosted by the University of Jyväskylä and his project examined how the pandemic impacted teacher preparation programs.

"Collaborating with colleagues at the first Finnish-speaking teacher training college was the perfect way to start my journey as a Global Scholar. I was able to see first-hand the high-quality practices involved in teacher preparation in Finland and to engage with scholars, administrators, teachers, and teacher candidates to understand how the pandemic impacted their work and clinical experiences. Ultimately, I gained a wealth of knowledge that will help me as I transition to the next phases of my research in South Africa, and Germany," Michael Putman says.

ers and introduced vocational education. This fall, the Foundation expanded the collaboration with Mercuria by partnering in an internship program, where the Foundation serves as the host for a Mercuria student intern with the goal of preparing the student for work in international organizations. The Foundation office provides an international environment and is hence a good match for students wishing to gain practical experience in international work during their studies.

Text: Mirka McIntire

## The Many Ways to Collaborate

The Fulbright Finland Foundation offers institutions and organizations that share its mission and values a broad range of partnership models and other ways to collaborate. The vast majority of the long-term partnership agreements are with higher education and research institutions. At the same time, there is also active and growing collaboration with institutions on the secondary education level.

In recent years, for instance, Mercuria Business College in Vantaa has hosted U.S. Fulbright-

More information on the many ways to collaborate and partner with the Fulbright Finland Foundation: [www.fulbright.fi/work-with-us](http://www.fulbright.fi/work-with-us)





## Gaining Insights into the Finnish Political System

A lunch with Members of the Finnish Parliament sparked candid and insightful discussions.

The U.S. Fulbright grantees are always warmly welcomed to the Parliament House. As a part of the Foundation's annual Thanksgiving events, they are invited for a private lunch and a tour of the building. Members of Parliament **Mats Löfström** and **Sakari Puisto** hosted the lunch and gave the grantees insights into the Finnish political system.

The Finnish multiparty system, communication and collaboration across party lines, and the upcoming parliamentary elections sparked questions from the grantees. The MPs also discussed current issues from different perspectives. The hosts' candid responses to the grantees' questions made the discussion very special.

"Visiting the Parliament House and meeting with members of the Finnish Parliament was a refreshing and unique experience," says Fulbright-Saastamoinen Foundation Distinguished Chair **David Dorman**.

After the lunch the group was able to follow the Plenary Session, followed by an informative tour of the building.

### Getting Together for Thanksgiving

The annual Fulbright Finland Thanksgiving is an

important tradition that brings together the U.S. Fulbright grantees for two days of activities.

In addition to the visit to the Parliament House, the program included an introduction to Finnish floorball, chocolate tasting at Fazer Experience Visitor Center, and a potluck dinner hosted by the Fulbright Bicentennial Chair, **David Witwer**. The potluck dinner is a joint effort with every grantee bringing dishes special for them.

"Our family has always made a special effort to be together for that most American of holidays, Thanksgiving. But that was not possible this year. Getting together with the Fulbright family for this Thanksgiving dinner in Helsinki was a great substitute. Good food. New friends. Lots to be thankful for," says Fulbright-Haaga-Helia Scholar **David Duncombe**.

MPs **Sakari Puisto** and **Mats Löfström** answered the grantees questions about the Finnish political system during a private lunch at the Parliament House.



Text and photos:  
Maija Kettunen





## Foreign Minister Haavisto and Fulbright Scholars Discuss Science Diplomacy

The Minister for Foreign Affairs of Finland, **Pekka Haavisto**, recently met with the current U.S. Fulbright grantees in Finland to talk about science diplomacy, what it means in practice, and what both students and scholars can concretely do to engage with and contribute to it.

Science is a powerful force in solving global challenges, transcending the barriers between nations. Given the magnitude of the challenges of our time, however, a much broader engagement in science diplomacy is necessary than is currently the case. The input and participation of established scholars, early career scientists, and students alike, across all disciplines, is critical to help improve the outcomes.

Although science diplomacy is an old practice, the term itself is relatively new and therefore unfamiliar to many. Others may be aware of the concept but less about what it could mean for them in practice. And some confess to being hesitant due to fearing that either “science” or “diplomacy”, or both, are outside of their capacity or position. Alleviating unnecessary thresholds and building broader and more inclusive engagement require better familiarization and more training in the key characteristics and challenges of science diplomacy and science communication, as well as an open discussion of the many and diverse opportunities and ways to contribute.

“The conversation with Minister Haavisto and members of the Fulbright Finland community affirmed that we must learn together, across boundaries of dis-

ciplines, organizations, and countries, in order to find meaningful answers to the challenging questions posed by the crises humanity faces,” says **Anita Wagner** from Harvard University, currently in Finland on a Fulbright-Tampere University Scholar Award.

From his extensive background and experience working around the globe to help solve some of the most intractable problems of our time, Minister Haavisto shared with the grantees his personal experiences and insights, and offered powerful encouragement for everyone, regardless of age, background, or title, to assume an active role. One should not shy away from the challenge.

“The conversation with Minister Haavisto about science diplomacy was a career pivoting experience for me, during my first week as a Fulbright Specialist in Finland,” says **Frances Yang** from the University of Kansas, currently on her Fulbright at the University of Eastern Finland. “I was impressed by Minister Haavisto’s cultural humility, servant leadership, intelligent diplomacy, and scientific understanding. When I inquired about my research area in Finland to identify culturally appropriate, standardized health measurements to make comparisons across countries, in order to identify healthcare solutions in anticipa-

tion for the next pandemic, he immediately understood the problem. He gave an example from his own experience when several countries had different ways of measuring the water quality of a river they shared, leading to discrepancies and consequently making the joint discussion on addressing the issue at hand more complicated.”

The questions around science diplomacy are typically complex. **Allen Malony** from the University of Oregon, the current Fulbright-Nokia Distinguished Chair in Information and Communications Technologies at the University of Helsinki, brought up the challenges regarding how to address issues of science denial and anti-science factors in science diplomacy.

“Science diplomacy is founded on the principle that the science matters,” he says. “While humankind has the most powerful instruments for scientific discovery ever imagined, allowing us to advance evidenced-based, reliable, scientific knowledge for solving global challenges like never before, it is also important to be aware of science denialism and anti-science factors in society and politics that challenge our efforts to make progress for a better world, one based on scientific reasoning.”

The grantees and Minister Haavisto discussed a broad range of fundamental themes, such as how humanities fit into science diplomacy, the role of traditional knowledge, and the balance between cooperation and competition in government-led science diplomacy initiatives. The inspiring exchange, driven by the grantees’ insightful questions, gave food for thought for many conversations to come.

“I am grateful for this conversation with Minister Haavisto through Fulbright Finland’s thoughtful efforts to make this opportunity available for us. I learned about the term “science diplomacy” for the first time, and now realize this is the mechanism of impact that I have always been passionate about through the translational research that I strive for. My career goal is to ultimately impact and improve the health of all nations. Now, through Fulbright Finland and this conversation with Minister Haavisto, I have science diplomacy as my career mission,” Frances Yang concludes.

Text: Terhi Mölsä

Read more: [www.fulbright.fi/news-magazine/citizens-and-science-diplomacy](http://www.fulbright.fi/news-magazine/citizens-and-science-diplomacy)



**Science diplomacy** will be discussed at the NAFSA: Association of International Educators 75th Anniversary Conference in Washington, D.C., May 30-June 2, 2023, in the session on “Tackling Global Challenges: Science Diplomacy In Fulbright Exchanges”, chaired by Fulbright Finland Foundation CEO Terhi Mölsä. If you are planning to attend NAFSA in May, come and join us for this session!



PHOTO: MAJJA KETTUNEN

# Appreciating Finland's Togetherness

Text SARAH KUHNER and JERMAINE ELLERBE

What happens when you bring together fifteen diverse, inquisitive, American K-12 teachers and send them to Finland in November to deepen their knowledge and skills in global competence? Simple: the very first cohort of Fulbright Finland Teachers for Global Classrooms fellows. For nearly three weeks, we traveled to Helsinki, Espoo, Joensuu, and Vantaa, engaging in school and community events to understand the Finnish way of life and the values that drive the education system.

While we represented different regions, grades, and settings in American schools, the theme of togetherness was evident from the very first day. The cultural values of cooperation and trust dovetailed with the education system at large. From the arts emphasis to interdisciplinary projects to a notable absence of testing, the human-centered nature of Finnish education impacted us.

Middle school ELA teacher from North Carolina **Anne Boyette** recalled, “**Terhi Molsä**’s explanation of Fulbright Finland’s motto ‘Together Shaping the Future’ hit home. She reminds us that we leave a legacy even if we do nothing. That’s a powerful message for our students as well as us! How much better to work collaboratively for positive change.”

The program structure allowed for formal and informal learning and included school visits, guided

reflection, and cultural experiences. “Watching a 3rd grade teacher at Karsikko School teach in Finnish, I noticed the same teaching strategies and protocols I use with my own 3rd graders which really encapsulated the Fulbright field experience for me. Regardless of our language or country, our daily shared experience in the classroom connects us all,” observed California teacher **Veronica Verzosa**.

One program highlight was the Internationalization Days conference for K-12 educators at the University of Eastern Finland. We delivered a session that connected Finnish and American competencies with global phenomena, and some teachers came away with opportunities to collaborate virtually with our Finnish counterparts.

“The format provided a structured way for educators to engage with one another in a meaningful way. We all ended the session feeling energized and connected to each other, even after working together for a short time,” reading specialist from California **Sophia Pelafigue** recalled. She continued, “I have gained so much from our numerous conversations, which supports my belief that a teacher is a teacher through other teachers.”

We found togetherness outside of classrooms too. We frequented saunas to relax, relate, and release. We joined in the chants of “Suomi! Clap, clap, clap” at a ringette game and noted the stands

During a visit to Nuuksio National Park, the teachers learned how nature is connected to the curriculum, and the meaning of everyman’s rights.

The Fulbright Teachers for Global Classrooms program is sponsored by the U.S. Department of State with funding provided by the U.S. Government and administered by IREX in the U.S. and by the Fulbright Finland Foundation in Finland.



O teacher, O teacher, O American teacher!  
 What shall you learn from us?  
 Faith, and trust, and pixie dust?  
 No, the greatest of these is trust.

An excerpt from the poem *The Rune of the TGC Teachers* by **Anne Boyette**, **Ryan Lewis**, and **Isaac Farhadian**.

In the final debriefing of the two-week FTGC program, Boyette, Lewis, and Farhadian delivered their report to the group as a poem, and credited their inspiration to *Kalevala*, the Finnish national epic.

Read the whole poem: [www.fulbright.fi/about-us/blog/rune-tgc-teachers](http://www.fulbright.fi/about-us/blog/rune-tgc-teachers)

of young athletes admiring the professionals on the ice. We took a cooking class at a Martha Organization site, which had us revising the acronym for TEAM from “Together Everyone Achieves More” to “Tonight Everyone Ate Much.” We hiked in Nuukio, had hands-on time at the Heureka Science Center, and marveled at how the Oodi Central Library brings community, creativity, and literacy together.

Even the Internationalization Days reception hosted by the city of Joensuu showcased togetherness as we were treated to a special *kantele* performance that involved four musicians playing one instrument simultaneously – a fitting metaphor for the balance of tradition and innovation.

Fulbright’s networking events connected present and past program participants. On the alumni home hospitality visit, middle school History teacher **Jermaine Ellerbe** said: “I felt so grateful that I wasn’t

treated as a foreigner but a long lost companion who was welcomed home. I am celebrating Thanksgiving now, as I have added to not only my network but friends.”

This life-changing experience as the inaugural Fulbright Finland TGC cohort will forever bind us together – as better educators, as better global citizens. While many of us packed our oversized suitcases with resources and souvenirs, we also left with possible collaborative opportunities through the Transatlantic Classroom Grant and with each other back in the U.S. We were the first (of hopefully many!) TGC cohorts, and we know that this is the first step in our connection with the Fulbright Finland Foundation.

In Joensuu, the group learned to prepare traditional Karelian pies with the help of the local Martha Organization. **Jill Prado** from Vermont (left) and **Allison Yarrow** from Mississippi are crimping the edges of the pies.



PHOTO: INARI AHOKAS

## Building Sense of Community and Collaborating with Educators

**T**hree U.S. Fulbright Teachers for Global Classrooms fellows stepped up to cover for a cancelled speaker at the XIV Internationalization Days of Finnish Schools organized by the National Agency for Education and the City of Joensuu. As a final keynote of the conference, they engaged the audience and gave an insightful introduction to the U.S. education systems with a focus on building sense of community in U.S. schools.

Led by Fulbright alumna **Tarja Mykrä**, the fifteen fellows also organized an interactive session Applying Transversal Competencies to Facilitate Virtual Classroom to Classroom Collaboration with U.S. teachers for Finnish educators interested in promoting student inquiry and collaboration across the Atlantic on timely phenomena.

The Foundation team seized the opportunity to promote exchanges, study in the U.S., and the



PHOTO: MAIJA KETTUNEN

Fulbright Speaker Program at the stand for educators from all around the country during the two-day event with 240 registered participants.

**Micheal Posey** (left), **Sophia Pelafigue**, and **Ryan Lewis** delivering their keynote.



# A Warm Finnish Welcome

The orientation training begins long before the grant term in Finland starts, but the 4-day orientation seminar in August is the first time the U.S. grantees meet in person.

The purpose of the orientation seminar is to introduce the grantees to the key contacts of the Foundation and help the grantees make connections instrumental for their time in Finland.

During the week they meet with Fulbright Finland alumni, representatives from the U.S. Embassy, Finnish universities, Ministry of Education and Culture, Ministry for Foreign Affairs, as well as Finnish research and cultural institutions through interactive orientation sessions and special networking receptions. One of the special events was a reception in honor of the 70th anniversary year of the signing of the Fulbright agreement between the governments of Finland and the U.S. hosted by Ambassador Douglas T. Hickey.

versary year of the signing of the Fulbright agreement between the governments of Finland and the U.S. hosted by Ambassador Douglas T. Hickey.

## Introduction to Finland

To deepen the grantees' knowledge of Finland, the invited expert speakers provide comprehensive introductions to Finland's culture and history, higher education system, research funding, and foreign policy priorities.

The grantees also get to experience some of the aspects of Finnish culture firsthand. During the first day of the orientation, they quickly learned how to work together in sync by rowing a 16 seated boat. And of course, it wouldn't be a proper Finnish welcome without a sauna experience.

## Full orientation program

[www.fulbright.fi/about-us/events/arrival-orientation-us-fulbright-finland-grantees](http://www.fulbright.fi/about-us/events/arrival-orientation-us-fulbright-finland-grantees)

U.S. Fulbright grantees posed for a group photo at the Sibelius Monument in Helsinki during the orientation week in August 2022.

## Exploring the Kaleidoscope of American Culture

Where can you learn about territorial acknowledgement, religion in modern America, the history of a peanut butter and jelly sandwich, and Al Capone's summer cottage? At the American Voices seminar!

For the 29th time, the U.S. Fulbright grantees shared unique aspects of U.S. culture and society with a full auditorium. The American Voices seminar is part of the curriculum of the University of Turku's North American Studies program, and it helps the students, who are familiar with the U.S. from news, music, and movies, to broaden their understanding of U.S. culture and society.



The American Voices has been a long-standing tradition between the Fulbright Finland Foundation and the University of Turku. Jointly organized by the Foundation, the Department of English, and John Morton Center for North American Studies, it sets an example of long-term, positive collaboration.

## American Voices

[www.fulbright.fi/about-us/events/american-voices-seminar](http://www.fulbright.fi/about-us/events/american-voices-seminar)

Text and photos: Maija Kettunen



# Studying Sustainable Digital Life in Finland

I came to Finland to study, observe, and envision how education and technology can support and sustain an equitable future. The Sustainable Digital Life program at Tampere University was founded in 2021 and is the first program in the world to directly address the role of technology in achieving the 17 UN Sustainable Development Goals, evaluating the structural, cultural, and ethical elements of digital systems and their impact on the future. As a Fulbright grantee in Finland, I have the unique opportunity to work with internationally recognized academic pioneers in sustainable design, gamification, accessibility, and future literacies.

The global challenges of sustainable development are demanding in both complexity and interdependence. Through my coursework I will be addressing these issues through topics in technology, for example: the challenges of collaborative environmental governance for circular economies; the ethical considerations in building and deploying responsible AI; how blockchain solutions can provide supply chain transparency; sustainable and accessible design practices for developing inclusive technical solutions; building digital tools for organizational readiness, climate change adaptation and climate risk management. The past three months have been intellectually stimulating and academic engagement with my professors and my peers has been inspiring.

The next year and a half of graduate school promises even more intellectual and professional growth. I am especially excited to complete my Sustainable Digital Life thesis. I have partnered with a leading digital consultancy, Gofore, on a research project to enhance their ethical and sustainable practices. Integrating my past experience with my growing knowledge, I am thrilled to be able to contribute to Gofore, an organization with a deep commitment to sustainable business.

## Enjoying Finland Outside the Classroom

My time in Finland outside of the classroom has been just as inspiring. I have expanded my Finnish language skills, and connected with my community through joining running and swimming clubs, and attending Ilves hockey games at Nokia Arena.



I have deeply enjoyed both exploring my local Tampere region and traveling to see the natural splendors of Finland through hiking in Seitsemien National Park and Kintulammi Nature Reserve, visiting the Serlachius Museum in Mänttä, and traveling up to Oulu for a glimpse of the Northern Lights. After presenting at Turku University as part of the American Voices seminar, I spent a few days biking from island to island along the Archipelago Trail

## Timothy Sowa

2022-23 Fulbright-Tampere University Graduate Award

[www.fulbright.fi/tuni-graduate](http://www.fulbright.fi/tuni-graduate)

One of the most exciting parts of being a Fulbrighter is knowing that our community will continue to grow and that the dynamic partnership between Finland and the U.S. grows with it.

with fellow Fulbrighters – one of the most memorable weekends of my time in Finland thus far.

One of the most exciting parts of being a Fulbrighter is knowing that our community will continue to grow and that the dynamic partnership between Finland and the United States grows with it. I appreciate the continued opportunities to interface with international actors across governments, industries, and the scientific community. I cannot wait to welcome next year's group of Fulbrighters to Tampere and Finland at large and to share some of what I have learned about the remarkable intellectual and cultural life here – starting, of course, with sharing a sauna.

## Ajatuksia Fulbright Suomi -säätiön tuesta Yhdysvalloissa opiskelussa

Fulbright Suomi -säätiö ja sen yhteistyökumppanit ovat olleet tukenamme aina stipendin myöntämisestä lähtien nykyhetkeen asti. Monipuolinen tuki on vaihdellut aina henkilökohtaisesta hakuprosessiin liittyvästä tuesta Fulbright-verkostoihin tutustuttamiseen ja viisumiin liittyvien kysymysten ratkomiseen.

Tuki oli erityisen arvokasta stipendiaattiprosessin alkuvaiheessa, yliopistohakuja valmisteltaessa. Hakuprosessi yhdysvaltalaisiin yliopistoihin on motivaatiokirjeineen, kirjoitusnäytteineen, tasokokeineen, suositusvaatimuksineen ja todistusten todentamisprosessineen melko pitkä ja monimutkainen. Fulbrightin tukemana kaikki sujui kuitenkin mukavasti ja mahdolliset ongelmat saatiin helposti ja tehokkaasti ratkaistua.

Sama pätee viisumihakemuksiin. Pahimmillaan kuukausia kestävät viisumikysymykset ratkottiin asiantuntevan henkilökunnan avulla kuin leikiten, ja pääsimme huoletta ja ajallaan aloittamaan opinnot New Yorkissa. Puhuttuamme muiden ilman Fulbrightin tukea Yhdysvaltoihin opiskelemaan lähteneiden opiskelijoiden kanssa aiheesta, olemme ymmärtäneet, ettei tällainen yksinkertainen ja suoraviivainen viisumiprosessi todellakaan ole itsestäänselvyys.

Henkilökohtaisen ohjauksen ohella paljon iloa on jälkikäteen katsottuna niin ikään ollut Fulbrightin järjestämistä stipendiaattivuotta edel-



täneistä seminaareista. Valmennus mahdollista kulttuurishokkia varten, pankki- ja vakuutusasioiden läpikäynti, kattavien valmistelulistojen antaminen sekä Fulbright-alumnien tapaaminen olivat osa syksyllä ja keväällä järjestettyjä seminaareja. Säätiön tärkein anti onkin upean mahdollisuuden tarjoamisen ohella ollut se, ettemme missään vaiheessa prosessia ole jääneet yksin, vaan apua, tukea ja valmennusta on ollut saatavilla läpi prosessin. Se on antanut turvaa ja tukea isoa elämänmuutosta valmistellessa ja sen keskellä ollessa.

Fulbright-ohjelma on ollut elämänmittaisen unelman ja valtavan ison uraan liittyvän edistysasteen mahdollistaja. Yhdysvaltalaisissa huipuyliopistoissa opiskeleminen on jo muutaman ensimmäisen kuukauden aikana tarjonnut mittamattoman arvokkaita näkökulmia siihen, miten omat alamme toimivat ja kehittyvät tällä puolen Atlantin. On ollut innostavaa huomata, että täällä olo todella mahdollistaa säätiön ydintarkoituksen toteutumisen. Täällä on paljon sellaista opittavaa, jota voimme myöhemmin hyödyntää omassa työssämmä myös Suomessa!

Helen ja Vivian tapasivat Fulbright Suomi -säätiön alumnin **Jessica De Palon** (keskellä) New Yorkissa.

**Helen Kesete ja Vivian Stolt**

2022-23 ASLA-Fulbright Graduate Grant  
[www.fulbright.fi/fin-graduate](http://www.fulbright.fi/fin-graduate)

Lue lisää Helenin ja Vivianin ajatuksia Fulbright-yhteisön merkityksestä stipendikauden aikana: [www.fulbright.fi/about-us/blog/unelmien-toteuttamisen-aarella-ajatuksia-fulbright-suomisaation-tuesta](http://www.fulbright.fi/about-us/blog/unelmien-toteuttamisen-aarella-ajatuksia-fulbright-suomisaation-tuesta)

## Diving Deep into the American Real Estate Market – and the Disruptive AI-Algorithms

During my research visit at the School of Information and Library Science at the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill, I am exploring the impact of a real estate tech company, Zillow, and their machine-learning algorithm, Zestimate, on the real estate market.

This commercial algorithm is used to estimate property values – a task that is typically done by real estate agents – and whereas Zestimate is widely used, it is claimed to be unreliable, inaccurate, and even manipulative.

I am interested in the human-centered perspective of this algorithm: how do the real estate agents and their clients perceive and experience Zillow and Zestimate, and what kind of impact this novel AI

technology has had on real estate practices? And I tell y'all, it has been an amazing journey.

The value of interpersonal relationships and trust between real estate agents and their clients is something that technology can never replace. Integrity and benevolence are characteristics that even the most powerful supercomputer cannot achieve, and our humanity is our greatest asset in the constantly digitalized environment. And during this research visit, it is also something that has helped me to gain new colleagues, collaborate, learn and share ideas. One of the UNC traditions is to have a sip from the Old Well for extra luck for the school year. Maybe this tradition has made its magic, but I have truly felt very lucky to be here.



**Saara Ala-Luopa**

2022-23 Fulbright-KAUTE Foundation Award  
University of North Carolina Chapel Hill

[www.fulbright.fi/kaute-award](http://www.fulbright.fi/kaute-award)



## Travel Grant Helped to Establish International Collaboration

**W**ith the Fulbright Finland Travel Grant I visited Niagara University, NY for two weeks in October 2022 in order to advance cooperation between NU and my home institution, Haaga-Helia University of Applied Sciences.

At Haaga-Helia UAS we had two concrete goals for the visit: to advance student mobility and to initiate course collaboration between our institutions. Associate Professor **Youngsoo Choi** organized all necessary appointments for my visit. With International Relations Brennan Center we had good conversations and shared ideas about how we can increase the student exchange between our institutions and solve the challenges: lack of funding for Finnish students and lack of courage for American students.

As a result of fruitful meetings with Dean **Bridget Niland** and Dr. **Deborah Curtis** we started to plan two joint courses: International Hospitality and Community Sport Management, both aiming to start already next autumn. Study trips to NU and Niagara Falls are integrated in both of these courses to strengthen the interactions between stu-



dents, their knowledge of studied topics, and Finnish-North American collaborations. With this kind of collaboration, the students get inspiration and also courage to participate in student exchanges.

Research and Development have an important role at Haaga-Helia, and we look for international partners especially in the U.S. The Fulbright Finland Travel Grant also helped in this, and the first connections between NU and Haaga-Helia R&D departments have now been established. During my two weeks at NU, I also attended some classes and gave lectures about Haaga-Helia UAS, Finland as a destination, and the Fulbright Finland Foundation.

It was very interesting to meet the management of several tourism and hospitality companies in the area, to update the recent situation after Covid-19. As a result of meetings with industry companies, we now have student internship places at Niagara Falls for next summer.

My visit to Niagara University, NY fulfilled all our targets at Haaga-Helia and we are looking forward for future partnership and collaborations.

### Salla Ursin

2022-23 Fulbright Finland Travel Grant for Institutional Partnership Building  
Niagara University, NY

From the left: Dean **Bridget Niland**, **Salla Ursin**, and Assistant Professor **Youngsoo Choi**.

[www.fulbright.fi/travel-grant-partnerships](http://www.fulbright.fi/travel-grant-partnerships)

## Exploring Diversity, Equality, and Language Awareness in the U.S.

**T**he study tour for the five Finnish school administrators selected for the Fulbright Leaders for Global Schools (FLGS) Travel Grant program in 2020, with the goal of developing diverse, equal, and language-aware schools from a leadership perspective, finally materialized in October 2022. After two years of virtual U.S.-Finnish collaboration during the pandemic, the program in the U.S. was both rewarding and educational.

The fellows had the opportunity to explore the program themes in practice in bilingual elementary, middle, and high schools in Arlington, VA, and Washington, D.C. They were also offered professional development and networking opportunities at the ASCD Leadership Summit and during



a Fulbright Dialogue event hosted by the Embassy of Finland in Washington, D.C. with FLGS alumni as expert speakers. Plans were already made to continue alumni collaboration across the Atlantic and within municipalities of Espoo, Liminka, and Oulu.

Text: Mirka McIntire

**Arita Norrbäck** (left), **Eeva Lumiaro**, **Anne Suomala**, **Raija Johnson**, and **Anne Moilanen** at the Embassy of Finland during the Fulbright Dialogue event.

Read more about the program and the Finnish school leaders' study tour from their journal at: [www.fulbright.fi/about-us/blog/exploring-diversity-equality-and-language-awareness](http://www.fulbright.fi/about-us/blog/exploring-diversity-equality-and-language-awareness)

The program was organized in collaboration with the Foundation and the municipalities of Espoo, Liminka, and Oulu with funding from the Finnish National Agency for Education. The study tour was implemented in collaboration with the Embassy of Finland, IREX, U.S. State Department, and Fulbright alumni.



Director of the John Morton Center for North American Studies at the University of Turku, Professor Benita Heiskanen talks about her research on U.S. culture and politics, her role in commenting on U.S. affairs in the media, and how her Fulbright experiences continue to inspire her.

# Beyond Disciplinary Boundaries

Text LOUISA GAIRN

## Benita Heiskanen

1999-2000 ASLA-Fulbright Graduate Grant  
University of Texas at Austin

[www.fulbright.fi/fin-graduate](http://www.fulbright.fi/fin-graduate)

The John Morton Center for North American Studies  
[www.utu.fi/en/university/faculty-of-social-sciences/john-morton-center](http://www.utu.fi/en/university/faculty-of-social-sciences/john-morton-center)

North American Studies Roundtable  
[www.fulbright.fi/trans-atlantic-roundtables/north-american-studies-roundtables](http://www.fulbright.fi/trans-atlantic-roundtables/north-american-studies-roundtables)

I instantly fell in love with the field of North American studies because it didn't operate within disciplinary boundaries," says Professor **Benita Heiskanen**. "Instead of studying only literature, or political science, or history, you look at a phenomenon and then you take the tools that are necessary to study that phenomenon."

Benita was studying for an undergraduate degree in English Philology, specializing in U.S. writers, but decided also to take minors in American studies, media studies and anthropology. "People told me at the time that it was a crazy combination, and that it wouldn't prepare me for a specific career. They said you won't become a teacher, an interpreter, or a linguist. But I didn't want to be any of those things. The multidisciplinary approach had me hooked, and so I just went with it."

Now Professor of North American Studies and Director of the John Morton Center at the University of Turku, Benita has built a successful career by developing this multidisciplinary approach. She credits her Fulbright scholarship as a turning point, allowing her to join the American Studies doctoral program at the University of Texas at Austin, gaining her PhD in 2004.

## Collegiality and Dialogue

"I know 'life-altering' is a cliché, but the Fulbright scholarship changed my life both personally and professionally. The doctoral program at the University of Texas at Austin was one of the most prestigious programs in American studies in the nation,

and one of the oldest ones as well. It felt almost like a family because it's such a small field – there were only twelve graduate students that got in the program that year. There was this tremendous sense of collegiality."

During her time in the U.S., Benita achieved academic success, winning three graduate student paper awards, and became actively involved with the wider Fulbright community, as president of the Austin Fulbright Scholars Association from 2002 to 2004. She recalls meeting other Fulbrighters from across the world. "We went to New Orleans for a seminar organized by the U.S. State Department. We met with the mayor and had lunch on a historic steamboat. The way we were received was remarkable. For me, it was the equivalent of being in the Olympic Games, bringing all the best and the brightest together, sharing ideas. I really felt like I was walking on water."

This collegiality is something that Benita has sought to foster in her role as Director of the John Morton Center, a position she took on in 2014. "In the U.S., I learned the importance of dialogue. In Finland, sometimes people just work in their offices, and you don't know what's going on next door. One of the key ideas I tried to get across from the beginning at the Center is that we always read and comment on each other's texts and applications. We rarely publish anything without sharing it first, and it's been wonderful to have that kind of dialogue and sense of community."



One of Benita's key research areas is the question of gun legislation in the U.S., specifically the controversial "campus carry" law passed in Texas in 2016, which allows the carrying of concealed firearms in university buildings. "There was a lot of media attention, and a huge uproar in Texas with activist movements opposing the legislation. We went there to conduct interviews and analysis with faculty, staff, and students, and the people who were on the implementation committees, about how they experienced the law on campus. Our group was multidisciplinary, including perspectives from security studies, gender studies, urban studies, and cultural history."

### Engaging with the Media

Benita's expertise in such high-profile and controversial issues in American society, particularly in the wake of mass shootings, has led to regular invitations to comment in the Finnish media – she estimates she and her colleagues have participated in over 600 media interviews.

"I think commenting in the media is particularly important in American studies because so much of what is going on in the United States is often either simplified or examined from a monodisciplinary viewpoint. For example, during presidential elections, American studies researchers can show how social power relations, such as race, class, and gender, become important in politics. We can explain how the abortion question, or the gun question, are matters that impact people's lives as well as politics. We try to go beyond stereotyping to explain the complexities of U.S. society. We can bring in our expertise from that multidisciplinary phenomenon-based approach and help to explain why the United States is the way it is, beyond clichés and beyond simplifications."

"It can get overwhelming, so I try to have very clear boundaries for when I participate in media debates. Our rule of thumb at the Center is we'll participate if we can bring an analytical perspective that goes beyond what reporters can find just by Googling, or soundbites reported in yesterday's New York Times. Journalists usually want you to simplify things, to give a catchy quote. But scholars want to complicate things, to look at both sides, and to highlight there are no easy answers."

Benita has recently been asked to comment on the U.S. midterm elections. Does she have any insights into the results and what they may indicate in the longer term?

"I studied the exit polls when they came out, and they seemed to indicate quite clearly that regular people are tired of the extremist viewpoints, and that the majority were hoping for a more moderate politics. Also, people were not voting strictly along party lines. For example, on the issue of abortion, they would jump out of a strictly partisan thinking. People have been talking about polarization for years, but that suggests that over 330 million people could be dumped into two boxes. People are much more varied than the bipartisan structure suggests,

and I think this election is a clear example of that, that people vote based on their values. It's clear from the exit polls that people want to see more political parties, as well as younger representatives in the government."

"I know 'life-altering' is a cliché, but the Fulbright scholarship changed my life both personally and professionally."

### Sharing Ideas through Collaboration

In addition to working with media organizations, Benita and her colleagues participate in a wide variety of research and public engagement events and networks throughout the year, even appearing on stage at the Turku City Theater to talk about her work to a public audience of 600. The Center's mission, Benita explains, is to foster transdisciplinary dialogue and synergies by engaging not only with other researchers, but also with the public.

"The Center has a council that includes twenty-five people from all walks of life, including the Finnish Ministry for Foreign Affairs, the U.S. Embassy, the Fulbright Finland Foundation, other foundations, business, and NGOs that work with the United States, and organizations related to Canada and Mexico. Whenever there is something going on in the United States, not just elections, but other issues relevant for broader audiences, we try to organize meetings or webinars open to the public."

Among the Center's many collaborations, the Fulbright Finland Foundation is a key partner. "We work regularly and closely together. For example, Fulbright organizes the American Studies Roundtable every year in Helsinki. They bring people who work in American studies from different Finnish universities together to discuss what's in store for the coming year, to share ideas and brainstorm about the future. Together with Fulbright, the English department here in Turku co-organizes the annual American Voices seminar, inviting all the Fulbright grantees that year to come to Turku and talk about American culture and experiences with a public audience, and we are partners in that. We also organize conferences where Fulbright is a partner, and our students often apply for Fulbright grants. I have a PhD candidate who recently got to spend a year in Texas with a Fulbright scholarship."

"There are very few scholarships in the United States that are as prestigious as Fulbright. When you are in the U.S. with Fulbright, people look at you differently. They automatically assume that you're a future leader of the world in some capacity. For me, Fulbright opened up so many different avenues, not just in terms of scholarship but also attitude, learning to be part of a scholarly community, sharing ideas and seeking help. There was a great sense that we're in this together."

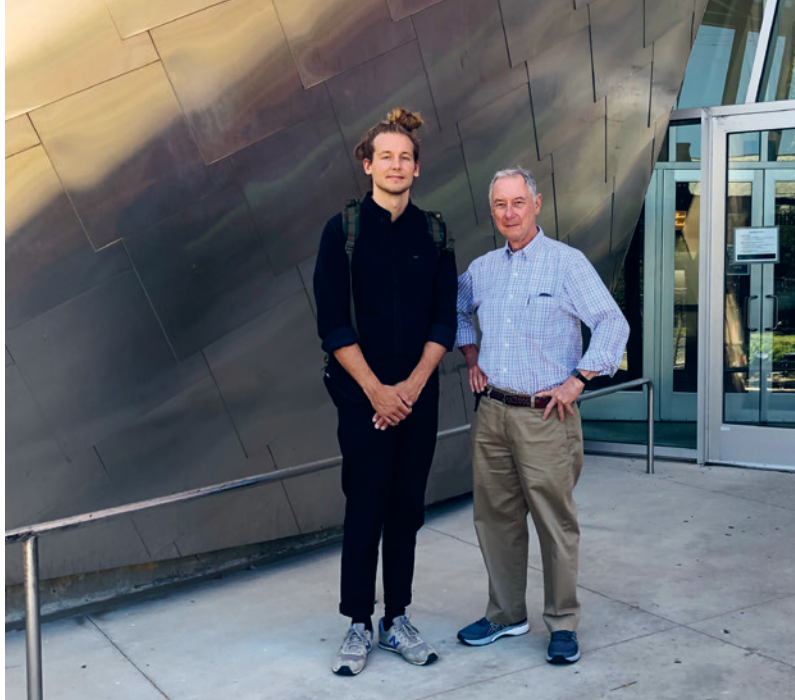
## The Power of Fulbright Community

I conducted my PhD research in history on American experiences of violence in the Vietnam War at Texas Tech University and the University of Maryland College Park in 2021 with an ASLA-Fulbright Graduate Grant. Soon after arriving to Lubbock, Texas, I was approached by Dr. **Ed Sivak**, a Fulbright Finland alum, who invited me to visit Cleveland, Ohio for a week.

As a Vietnam veteran Ed facilitated interviews with veterans and provided insight to my research subject. With veteran groups it is important to have an insider to show the ropes and open doors through introductions.

This taught me the importance of communities and how a Fulbright Finland scholarship is much more than a trip to the United States. It provides connections and experiences that would not be possible without enthusiastic individuals and a wide Fulbright network.

Ed also set up meetings with scholars sharing similar interests and we spent several days at the Case Western Reserve University. We visited the Cleveland History Center and the legendary Rock & Roll Hall of Fame. I also got to experience industrial Cleveland up Cuyahoga River and the great Lake Erie by boat.



We met with local stakeholders and spoke about the importance of easily accessible housing for future visiting students in the area. It is a subject that most grantees can relate to as finding accommodation seems to be among the biggest hurdles when moving stateside.

One of the most memorable parts of this journey was a trip to the Kent State University museum and archives regarding the April 6, 1970 massacre, a tragedy on campus that shocked the nation during the Vietnam War.

My journey with Ed is a prime example of American hospitality. I got so much during my year as a grantee and feel happy to start giving back through the Fulbright Finland alumni community.

### Olli Siitonen

2021-22 ASLA-Fulbright Graduate Grant  
Texas Tech University &  
University of Maryland  
College Park

[www.fulbright.fi/fin-graduate](http://www.fulbright.fi/fin-graduate)

## Snapshots from Welcome Network Encounters

The Finnish Fulbright Welcome Network was developed by a Foundation alum to provide a friendly local to welcome the Finnish grantees while they are in the U.S. The network offers a great opportunity for alumni to stay involved with their Fulbright experience in Finland. During the fall 2022 the network grew to have over 110 members in nearly 40 states in the U.S.

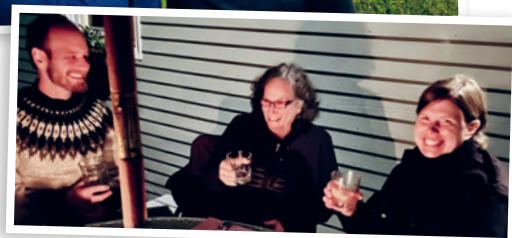
ASLA-Fulbright Pre-Doctoral Research Fellow **Heikki Hietanen** and Mid-Career Professional Development grantee **Minna Honkasalo** traveled to New Hampshire and Maine for *ruskaretki* (fall foliage trip) and met with 2004-05 U.S. Fulbright Scholar **Erica Waters**, a former Fulbrighter to the University of Turku. Erica's husband took Heikki and Minna kayaking at Harraseeket River and together they enjoyed a dinner.

2019-20 Fulbright Bicentennial Chair **Scott Buchanan** and his wife **Kelea** met with ASLA-Fulbright Graduate grantee **Maija Lähteenkorva** at Atlantic Botanical Gardens in Georgia.



The Welcome Network was created by a U.S. alum, who was inspired by the ASLA-Fulbright Alumni Association's Buddy Program, which helped him to settle into his new home town in Finland.

Text: Maija Kettunen



[www.fulbright.fi/friends-fulbright-finland/finnish-fulbright-welcome-network](http://www.fulbright.fi/friends-fulbright-finland/finnish-fulbright-welcome-network)





## A Welcoming Space for Hybrid Events

Text SUVI PIIPPONEN and HEIDI TIAINEN

The Fulbright Finland Foundation's office premises in Helsinki offer an excellent space for hybrid events, and the Foundation is pleased to host speakers for the events both virtually and in-person. This fall two speakers from the U.S. delivered their sessions in-person: Senior Associate Director of Undergraduate Admissions **Shane McGuire** from Vanderbilt University visited the Foundation in September, and Coordinator of the International Student Program at Santa Rosa Junior College **Teresa Topaz** in November. Together with the guest experts, the Foundation's EducationUSA advisers organized hybrid events focusing on applying to U.S. universities with an opportunity to hear experiences

from both the speakers and the Foundation grantees and alumni.

These sessions at the Foundation office gathered over 50 students and high school counselors, both in person and via Zoom. Hybrid events allow students from all over Finland to participate in the Foundation's programs and give a more personal touch when the presentation is done in a panel format with an actual audience. A small group setting also often makes students more comfortable to ask questions and discuss topics they are curious about. These events have increased the interest in applying to universities and colleges in the U.S. and encouraged the Foundation team to organize even more hybrid events in the future.



[www.fulbright.fi/fi/korkeakouluopinnot-yhdysvalloissa](http://www.fulbright.fi/fi/korkeakouluopinnot-yhdysvalloissa)

### 5 BEST REASONS FOR STUDYING IN THE U.S.

**1. VIBRANT CAMPUS CULTURE.** American universities tend to invest immense resources in enhancing an invigorating environment around campus through a variety of extra-curricular activities and other initiatives.

**2. PEER LEARNING AND INSPIRATION.** Group discussions and student-led clubs are prevalent all around, enabling students to be vocal on any issues they care about. This facilitates a collective growing experience where people are encouraged to learn from each other and actively take matters into their own hands in their communities. Students with diverse, often international backgrounds compose a great share of the student body in most institutions attended by Fulbright Finland Foundation grantees, further adding to the variety of perspectives in these deliberations.

#### 3. LINK BETWEEN ACADEMICS AND WORKING LIFE.

Many professors and guest lecturers are experienced practitioners with valuable insights from their respective non-academic fields.

#### 4. CLOSE RELATIONSHIPS WITH PROFESSORS AND MENTORS.

The number of people taking care of students both academically and personally seemed staggering to me when I first came on campus. Professors and teaching assistants value the time they get with undergraduates and are eager to hear your input regardless of your potential lack of experience in the field.

**5. COMMUNITY.** Whether it's within dorms, your graduating class, the alumni from your area, or just anyone wearing similar merch or rooting for the same mascot, the sense of community you get in U.S. colleges is unrivaled. Since you spend so much time living with your peers and people adjacent to your institution, your attachment to it will be undoubtedly great.



**Patrik Haverinen**  
2021-22 Fulbright Finland Undergraduate Grant  
2022-23 Fulbright Finland Renewal Grant  
Yale University

[www.fulbright.fi/undergraduate](http://www.fulbright.fi/undergraduate)

# Donors Make a Difference

Thank you

Text TERHI MÖLSÄ

**D**onors' role is critical. They help the Fulbright Finland Foundation expand exchanges between Finland and the U.S. and bring together the best scientists, academics, artists, educators, and future leaders and change-makers. Whether providing a real estate gift, establishing a scholarship, making a legacy gift by adding the Foundation to one's will, or donating either to the endowment or directly to scholarships, all gifts send a clear message that the Fulbright Finland experience is transformational and like no other.

We are deeply grateful to all donors for their generous gifts and for taking an active role in advancing the Foundation's vision: empowering the minds that will find global solutions to tomorrow's challenges. A special thank you to all those who donate annually, leaving a permanent imprint in Finnish-U.S. exchanges.

## Centennial Fund Supports Awards for New Grantees

The Fulbright Finland Centennial Fund was launched in 2016 to honor the 100th anniversary of Finland's independence. As an endowment meant to last into perpetuity, it supports awards for Finnish and U.S. students, scholars, and professionals through its annual yield. Most recently the Fund has received contributions from **Sharon Sandeen, Cecelia Lynch, Terhi Mölsä, Douglas & Joan Maynard, Ruth McDermott-Levy, Mark Miller, Aditya Ramesh, Edward Sivak, Piia Björn, Erika Holt, Nelson Totah, David Dorman, Amanda Stronach, Leasa Weimer,** and **David Yoken.**

## Alumni Enrichment Fund Supports Return Visits to Finland

The Friends of Fulbright Finland Alumni Enrichment Fund is an endowment supporting grants for U.S. alumni to return to Finland to continue and expand their original Fulbright projects and collaboration. Like the Centennial Fund, the Alumni Enrichment Fund uses its annual yield to fund grants. A major share of this endowment came from the legacy gift by the Foundation's alumna and volunteer team member, **Suzanne Louis**, who passed away in 2020. Most recently the Fund has received contributions from **Marlene Broemer, Kay Kohl,** and **Charlotte McDaniel.**

## Special Funds Support Selected Causes

Donors can also choose to support a specific cause. Most recently such contributions have been made by **Bruce Fowler** whose donation created a fund that supports Fulbrighters with disabilities (p. 21), and **Michael Loovis** whose long-term donor agreement with the Foundation created the Fulbright Finland Foundation E. Michael Loovis Scholastic Award for study or research at Cleveland State University.

Read more on different ways to support and make a difference in Finnish-U.S. exchanges here:

[www.fulbright.fi/work-with-us/donate](http://www.fulbright.fi/work-with-us/donate)

[www.fulbright.fi/fulbright-finland-foundation-e-michael-loovis-scholastic-award](http://www.fulbright.fi/fulbright-finland-foundation-e-michael-loovis-scholastic-award)

<https://issuu.com/fulbright-center-finland/docs/ff-news-218/21>

“Thanks to the Fulbright program, I had the most transformational life experience. I donate to make that possible for others.”

**David Yoken**, Senior Advisor, and former Board Member and Chair of the Fulbright Finland Foundation





## Alumni Gift Supports Students in Architecture, Design, and Visual Arts

Text KAROLIINA KOKKO

The Fulbright Finland Foundation has awarded its third Fulbright Finland Centennial Travel Grant in Architecture, Design, and the Visual Arts to **Irina Wang**, a 2022-23 U.S. Fulbright Student at the University of Lapland, and Aalto University.

Projects in architecture, design, and the visual arts often require travel within the host country. This award supports Finnish and U.S. students in these fields to make it possible for them to get the most out of their Fulbright in the host country. The 2022-23 award provides Irina additional support to engage in travel required by her research in Finland. Specialized in Systems Transition Design, Irina's research focuses on codesigned artifacts and visualizing indigenous perspectives on Arctic climate change design. She uses participatory design research, diversified ways of knowing, and creative physical fabrication to capture and convey the complex narratives of circumpolar climate change and the socioeconomic power dynamics of Arctic governance. In collaboration with Sámi reindeer herders as frontline codesigners, a set of specu-



PHOTO: MAIJA KETTUNEN

lative artifacts will be prototyped and socialized with public officials to inform and inspire more conscientious policymaking.

The award is made possible by a gift from the Foundation's alum, Professor **Peter MacKeith**, a Fulbright grantee to Finland in 1990.

"Mobility between Rovaniemi and Helsinki is central to my design research, especially when it comes to building trust with collaborators. To metaphorically and literally *meet someone where they are* is important for the codesign process. I want to thank the Foundation, and Professor MacKeith, for recognizing and nurturing that possibility," Irina says.

[www.fulbright.fi/fulbright-finland-centennial-travel-grants-architecture-design-and-visual-arts](http://www.fulbright.fi/fulbright-finland-centennial-travel-grants-architecture-design-and-visual-arts)

## Alumni Gift Supports Fulbrighters With Disabilities



The Fulbright Finland Foundation is grateful to announce a new fund that support Finnish and U.S. Fulbrighters with disabilities. The fund was created by a generous donation to the Foundation by Dr. **Bruce A. Fowler**, an internationally recognized expert on the toxicology of metals, and a private consultant in toxicology and risk assessment.

Dr. Fowler was a Fulbright scholar in Sweden in 1994-95, and currently serves on the Board of Directors of the Fulbright Association in the United States. A friend and supporter of the Fulbright Finland Foundation, he is making a permanent impact on the Finnish-U.S. Fulbright program.

[www.fulbright.fi/about-us/news-releases/new-fund-supports-fulbrighters-with-disabilities](http://www.fulbright.fi/about-us/news-releases/new-fund-supports-fulbrighters-with-disabilities)



PHOTO: MAIJA KETTUNEN

## Welcomes and Transitions

The Foundation is happy to welcome back Program and Alumni Networks Specialist **Emilia Holopainen**, who has returned from her parental leave and continues working with student programs and alumni networks, and Coordinator **Mihkel Vaim** who will be returning in January 2023. A sincere thank you and all best wishes to **Inari Ahokas** and **Suvi Piipponen** who will be transitioning from their temporary positions in December, and become valued staff alumni.

In temporary positions during the fall 2022 were also **Tarja Mykrä** and **Cia Hallbäck**. Fulbright Distinguished Award in Teaching (2015-16) and Fulbright Leaders for Global Schools (2019-20) programs alumna, and a freelancer in the field of education, Tarja Mykrä worked for the Foundation as the Program Consultant in the 2022 Fulbright Teachers for Global Classrooms (FTGC) program (p. 10). Cia Hallbäck is a Business College student and interned at the Foundation during the fall, helping with the FTGC and other grant programs, and Foundation events. A warm thank you, Tarja and Cia!

## Board Appointment News

The Foundation is pleased to announce that **Susan Bridenstine**, Counselor for Public Affairs at the U.S. Embassy, Helsinki, has been appointed to the Fulbright Finland Foundation Board of Directors. She succeeds **William Couch** who recently completed his term. The Foundation conveys a sincere thank you to William Couch for his dedicated service to the Foundation, and a warm welcome to Susan Bridenstine.

VTT Technical Research Centre of Finland hosted the Fulbright Finland Foundation Board of Directors' meeting in October at VTT Centre for Nuclear Safety in Espoo. The Honorary Chair, H.E. Ambassador **Douglas T. Hickey** also joined the Board for the VTT visit.

In the photo **Kirsimarja Blomqvist, Nelson Totah, Terhi Mölsä, Kaarle Hämeri**, Ambassador Douglas T. Hickey, Susan Bridenstine, **Timo Korkeamäki, Piia Björn, Erika Holt**, and **Nazanin Berarpour**.

[www.fulbright.fi/about-us/board-directors](http://www.fulbright.fi/about-us/board-directors)

### FULBRIGHT FINLAND FOUNDATION 2022

[www.fulbright.fi/about-us/year-focus](http://www.fulbright.fi/about-us/year-focus)

**136**

grantees, 54 Finnish and 82 U.S. grantees

**1,4 million**

euros awarded as grants

**82**

events throughout Finland and online

**6 800**

client contacts and event participants

#### FULBRIGHT FINLAND NEWS

**EDITOR-IN-CHIEF** Terhi Mölsä **EDITORS** Maija Kettunen (Managing Editor), Bill Eaton **DESIGN AND LAYOUT** Tanja Mitchell, Grafee **EDITING OFFICE** Fulbright Finland Foundation, Hakaniemenranta 6, FI-00530 Helsinki, FINLAND **TEL.** +358 44 5535 286 **E-MAIL** [office@fulbright.fi](mailto:office@fulbright.fi) **ISSN** 2489-2149 (print) **ISSN** 2489-2157 (online) **PAPER** Scandia White 150 g/m<sup>2</sup> and 115 g/m<sup>2</sup> **PRINT CIRCULATION** 600 **PRINTED BY** PunaMusta Oy **ONLINE** [www.fulbright.fi/fulbright-finland-news-magazine](http://www.fulbright.fi/fulbright-finland-news-magazine)

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Painotote 441 032





**THE FULBRIGHT FINLAND FOUNDATION** is an independent not-for-profit organization based in Helsinki, Finland.

Its purpose is to promote a wider exchange of knowledge and professional talents through educational contacts between Finland and the United States.

The Foundation collaborates with a range of government, foundation, university, and corporate partners on both sides of the Atlantic to design and manage study and research scholarships, leadership development programs, and internationalization services.

## Finland-America Educational Trust Fund

The Fulbright Finland Foundation is financially supported by the Finland-America Educational Trust Fund.

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**is to empower the minds  
that will find global solutions to tomorrow's  
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Currently on leave: Adriana  
O'Flanagan, Saara Martikainen,  
and Mihkel Vaim

# Calendar

## December

**15.12.**

Holiday Cheer Event for volunteers at the Foundation Office

**15.12.**

Trust Fund Board Meeting

**19.12.**

Fulbright Finland Foundation Board Meeting

**26.–30.12.2022**

Foundation Office Closed

## January

Fulbright Finland Foundation Board of Directors Annual Meeting

**24.–26.1.**

Arrival Orientation for U.S. Fulbright Grantees

**24.1.**

U.S. Embassy Helsinki & Fulbright Finland Foundation Alumni Event

**26.1.**

2023-24 Application Deadline Fulbright Finland Travel Grant

## February

**3.2.**

North American Studies Roundtable

## March

**16.–17.3.**

Mid-term Get-Together for the U.S. Fulbright Grantees



Fulbright Teachers for Global Classrooms fellows enjoying the Finnish nature in Nuuksio National Park.

## April

**3.4.**

2023-24 Application Deadline Fulbright Undergraduate Grant

## May

**16.5.**

Pre-Departure Orientation for Fulbright Finland Foundation Awardees to the U.S. and Fulbright Finland Award Ceremony

**30.5.–2.6.**

Foundation at the NAFSA Conference, Washington, D.C., and Alumni Get-Together

2024-25 Application Deadline

ASLA-Fulbright Graduate Grants

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FORUM**  
EDUCATION  
INNOVATION  
SCIENCE  
AND  
ART

**VIRTUAL FULBRIGHT FORUM 2023:  
EDUCATION, INNOVATION, SCIENCE, AND ART**

*Multiple sessions during March-April 2023.*

Learn about the projects that the current U.S. Fulbright scholars, teachers, and graduate students are doing in Finland.

The program will be published at [www.fulbright.fi/about-us/events/fulbright-forum-education-innovation-science-and-art](http://www.fulbright.fi/about-us/events/fulbright-forum-education-innovation-science-and-art)