

J. William Fulbright Commission
for Educational Exchange
in the Slovak Republic

ANNUAL PROGRAM REPORT

For the U.S. Government Fiscal Year:
October 1, 2020 to September 30, 2021
Academic Year 2020-21

Lýdia Tobiášová – Executive Director
November 2021

A. THE COMMISSION

Based on the Agreement between the Government of the Slovak Republic and the Government of the United States of America concerning the J. William Fulbright Commission for Educational Exchange in the Slovak Republic (198/2005 Coll. as amended), the Commission is responsible for administering and supervising the Fulbright Program in the Slovak Republic.

The Commission strives to:

- support outstanding individuals in both countries who can extend expertise in their field of specialization;
- engage leading U.S. and Slovak scholars, students and professionals in educational and research exchanges and to develop mutual relationship and cooperation;
- increase expertise in fields in which lecturing and/or research is conducted in both countries;
- extend activities to establish and support cost sharing programs with participating institutions;
- serve as an advising center for individuals and institutions that provides accurate and up-to-date information about study and research opportunities in the U.S.

The bi-national **Board of the Commission** oversees the operation and activities of the Commission. The Minister of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic appoints Slovak Board members and the U.S. Ambassador to the Slovak Republic appoints American Board members. Both serve as Honorary Chairmen of the Board.

The Board has the responsibility for setting long term goals and priorities of the program, program activities, selection and nomination of grantees, and coordination of finances of the Commission.

The Board of the Commission/AY 2020-21:

Honorary Co-Chairpersons:

Branislav GRÖHLING Minister of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic (since March 2020)

Bridget BRINK U.S. Ambassador to the Slovak Republic

U.S. Members:

David DUERDEN Counselor for Public Affairs, U.S Embassy Bratislava, Chair Treasurer (until July 2021)

Tamara STERNBERG-GRELLER	Counselor for Public Affairs, U.S Embassy Bratislava, Treasurer (since August 2021)
Tara HALL	Deputy Public Affairs Officer, U.S. Embassy Bratislava
Linda STEYNE	Lecturer at the Department of British and American Studies, Faculty of Arts, Comenius University in Bratislava
Aaron WALTER	Associate Professor, Center for European Studies, Cyril and Methodius University, Trnava/ Masaryk University Brno, Czech Republic (until August 2021)
Alan DYKSTRA	Freelance Consultant/Educator (since August 2021)

Slovak Members:

Jozef BÁTORA	Professor, Faculty of Arts, Comenius University in Bratislava
Marek MOŠKA	Director General, Section of International Relations and European Affairs - Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic, Alternate Treasurer
Daniela OSTATNÍKOVÁ	Professor, Head of the Institute of Physiology, Comenius University in Bratislava
Jana TOMKOVÁ	Director, Department of Cultural Diplomacy - Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic

The Commission Staff:

Lýdia TOBIÁŠOVÁ	Executive Director
Denisa BEZÁKOVÁ	Finance Officer
Zuzana KOPČANOVÁ	Program and Study Officer/EducationUSA adviser
Dáša TAKO VELICHOVÁ	Program Officer

B. FULBRIGHT AWARDS

The Commission administers and supervises a variety of high-profile award programs for U.S. and Slovak citizens based on an open, merit-based competition. The Commission takes into account recommendations of selection committees focusing on professional skills, academic achievement, promising career development, financial means available, and other program requirements; and announces the final nomination of Fulbright grantees.

The academic year 2020-21 continued to be heavily affected by the Covid -19 pandemic. Commissions were requested by the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs – State Department (ECA) to assess the situation in their countries in regard to the COVID-19 pandemic and to inform the ECA by November 15, 2020 which of their programs will be open for in-person or hybrid participation in the academic year 2020-21.

The Commission contacted all Slovak and U.S. grantees and the host institutions where ETAs were supposed to be placed to find out whether there was a possibility for in-person or hybrid participation after January 2021. The Board was also properly informed about the ECA guidance/pathways, both for U.S. Students/Scholars and Visiting Students/Scholars, and on the status of the grantees. After thorough assessment of the information available, especially the status of the host institutions in Slovakia and the U.S., and the epidemiological situation in Slovakia, the Board decided:

- to defer the English Teaching Assistant Program (ETA) - the Board concluded that the program was not feasible and ETAs were offered a deferral to September 2021.
- to move forward with other Fulbright Programs - depending on the status of the host institutions, grantees who could not carry out their grant in-person were offered a deferral to the academic year 2021-22.

Due to the global suspension of the Fulbright Program and in-person requirement for all Fulbright grants, only two Slovak grantees were able to travel and pursue their grant in the academic year 2020-21. Those who were not able to do so were deferred to the academic year 2021-22. Above mentioned resulted in the reduction of number of grantees selected for the academic year 2021-22.

1. Fulbright Student Program

Slovak and U.S. graduate students can apply for up to 9-month scholarships for independent research or study at Slovak or U.S. institutions, respectively. Candidates are required to prove an outstanding university record and to submit high-quality and well-conceived projects.

Slovak applicants may conduct independent research, and if funding is available, enroll in Master's programs. They can apply in any field except for clinical medicine, M.BA and LL.M. Candidates without prior extensive U.S. study experience are given preference.

U.S. applicants can pursue individual research projects under tutorial of a Slovak expert in the respective field. Knowledge of Slovak language is desirable for commensurate with the level needed in fields like political science, history, linguistics, and anthropology.

Slovak Students:

- **Vlasta Kubušová** and **Marek Lüley** were deferred to AY 21-22
- **Katarína Jurišová** was originally deferred to AY 21-22. She declined the award in June 2021 because she was offered an assignment with the Permanent Representation of the Slovak Republic at the EU in Brussels, Belgium.

The Commission did not have any U.S. grantees in the Fulbright Student Program.

2. Fulbright Scholar Program

U.S. scholars with comprehensive experience propose projects on research or lecturing at Slovak institutions. The applications are welcomed in any field; although preference may be given to the needs of Slovak academic institutions. Candidates without extensive research or lecturing experience in the Slovak Republic are given preference.

Slovak scholars who hold a PhD. degree (in arts and some other fields comparable professional experience is required) must include an invitation letter from the U.S. institution in their application. All areas of research or lecturing, except clinical medicine, are eligible. Candidates without prior extensive U.S. research or study experience are given preference.

U.S. Scholars - Jeffrey Elton Anderson, Gretchen Frances Bennett, Larry Alan di Matteo, Charles Arthur Martin De Bartolome, and Michael Joseph Murphy were deferred to the academic year 2021-22.

Slovak Scholars - Daniela MERESSA RUSNOKOVÁ, Pavol MUDROŇ, Štefan TKÁČ were deferred to the academic year 2021-22.

Only two SK Scholars – **Katarína MARÁKOVÁ** and **Kamila URBAN** successfully completed their grant.

Name	Katarína MARÁKOVÁ
Category	Research
Host Institution	University of Texas at Arlington, College of Science, Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry, Arlington, TX
Home Institution	Comenius University, Faculty of Pharmacy, Department of Pharmaceutical Analysis and Nuclear Pharmacy, Bratislava
Discipline/Specialization	Chemistry/Analytical Chemistry
Project Title	Novel Approaches in Pretreatment and Analysis of Intact Proteins as Disease Biomarkers
Duration	6 months/January 2021 – July 2021
Name	Kamila URBAN
Category	Research
Host Institution	North Carolina State University, College of Education, Department of Teacher Education and Learning Sciences, Raleigh, NC
Home Institution	Slovak Academy of Sciences, Institute for Research in Social Communication, Bratislava; Czech university of Life Sciences, Institute of Education and Communication, Prague, CR
Discipline/Specialization	Education/Early Childhood & Elementary Teacher Training
Project Title	Designing a Metacognitive Game-Based Learning Environment
Duration	5 months/January 2021- June 2021

3. English Teaching Assistant (ETA) Program

The Slovak secondary schools receive assistance in strengthening English language instructions by establishing a qualified native speaker presence. At the same time, U.S. participants gain from intensive cross-cultural interaction and research opportunities.

Due to the pandemic, the wholeETA program in Slovakia was deferred to the academic year 2021-22.

NOTE: **Lillie Laura Alsky** declined the award in December 2020. Three ETAs were newly selected to complement the cohort 2021-22 due to the funding available – **Colleen Mary Gair, Corey Danyal Khan, Evelyn Adrienne Berryhill**.

4. Fulbright Specialist Program

Slovak academic institutions can invite a U.S. expert for 2 - 6 weeks to lecture, assist in developing curricula and educational materials, participate or lead seminars or workshops, assist in faculty development, etc. The selection and placement must be completed within 3 months.

The program is a short-term complement to the traditional Fulbright Scholar Program. It attracts those U.S. experts who otherwise would not be able to participate in one or two-semester programs.

Due to the ongoing pandemic, the Fulbright Specialist Program has been suspended.

5. Fulbright Scholar-in-Residence Program

Scholar-In-Residence Program assists U.S. higher education institutions in expanding academic exchange programs. By supporting non-U.S. Scholars through grants for teaching at institutions with no strong international component, both the U.S. institution and the scholar grantee benefit.

The Commission did not have any scholar-in-residence fellows.

C. OTHER AWARDS

1. Hubert H. Humphrey Fellowship Program

The program gives the opportunity to mid-career professionals to participate in 10-month study and related professional experience at U.S. institutions in fields such as environmental management, finances, human resources management, urban planning, communications, drug abuse education, etc. Final selection of nominees from over 150 countries is made at the U.S. State Department:

Name	Andrea DANIHELOVÁ
Home Institution	Východoslovenská Energetika Holding a.s.
Host Institution	Michigan State University
Project Title	Economic Development
Duration	5 months/January 2021- May 2021

Ms. Danihelová had the opportunity to gain knowledge about economic development and non-profit organizations through on-line classes she attended from January till May. After the theoretical part of the program, she started a 6-week long internship with the Allen Neighborhood Center in Lansing, Michigan which gives support to the local community. As a communication expert, she helped the organization to set communication activities for the upcoming period and established effective communication channels which helped the center to be acknowledged not only by the local community but the public as well.

2. Study of the U.S. Institutes (SUSIs)

The Study of the U.S. Institutes are 5-week programs focusing on American Studies and civic society affairs. The candidates are selected through worldwide competition.

The Study of the U.S. Institutes for summer 2021 were organized in a hybrid format. In July 2021, the selected candidates for Slovakia participated in online courses and lectures. The in-person component is scheduled for Spring 2022.

SUSI for Scholars:

- **Tomáš Gašparovič** (Secondary Educators/Teachers)

SUSI for Student Leaders:

- **Annamária Pšenková** (Civic Engagement)
- **Miriama Sokoláková** (Entrepreneurship & Economic Development)

3. Inter-Country Travel Program

Inter-Country Travel Program provides Slovak Institutions with an opportunity to seek funding for travel expenses to invite U.S. Fulbright Grantees from other countries in Europe to lecture in Slovakia.

Due to the ongoing pandemic, no inter-country travels were requested.

4. Cybersecurity Program

Fulbright Poland together with Fulbright Commissions in Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Hungary, Romania and Slovakia as well as partners from the U.S. organized a cybersecurity exchange program. The visit, designed for university representatives, was carried out in a hybrid form – combining virtual meetings with a planned in-person visit to the U.S. East Coast at a later time. Two Slovak candidates were accepted and participated in an on-line part of the program from March 10 to June 23, 2021 – **Mr. Boris Bučko** - Žilinská Univerzita v Žiline, Faculty of Management Science and Informatics, Department of Mathematical Methods and Operations Research, and **Ms. Soňa Sopúchová** - Comenius University, Faculty of Law, Institute of Information Technology Law and Intellectual Property Law. The in-person part is planned for Spring 2022.

D. GRANT SUPPORTING ACTIVITIES

Due to the suspension of the program and the fact that there were no U.S. grantees in Slovakia present in the academic year 2020-21, in-person activities or on-site visits could not be carried out. The focus of the Commission activities shifted to the virtual sphere entirely.

1. Pre-Departure Orientation Seminar

The seminar is mandatory for all outgoing Slovak grantees in order to brief them on important issues related to their departure for the U.S. and the successful completion of their grant.

Due to the COVID-19 restrictions, both seminars for Slovak grantees were held online - **December 3, 2020/ May 19, 2021**. The PDO's main agenda included terms and conditions of the Fulbright and Humphrey awards, visa applications, health insurance, and financial aspects of the awards. Representatives of the U.S. Embassy Bratislava, Mr. David Duerden and Ms. Emily Teickenson, participated in the orientation and shared with current grantees up-to-date information on the pandemic situation in the U.S. and provided insights on the U.S. Some of the Fulbright alumni also joined the orientation and shared their practical experience with current grantees.

2. Orientation Seminar

The seminar is mandatory for all incoming U.S. grantees in order to brief them on important issues related to their stay in Slovakia.

The orientation seminar took place **from 20 to 24 September, 2021 in-person**, since the situation related to COVID -19 pandemic allowed for an in-person form. Guidelines of state health authorities and the legislation in place were observed. The seminar was organized in order to familiarize U.S. grantees with Slovak history, culture, politics, economy, education etc. Furthermore, a review of the terms and conditions of their grant, financial, visa, and health issues were an essential part of the orientation. A crash course on Slovak language has proven to be of importance to U.S. grantees. The Commission annually reviews and updates the program in order to implement the guidance and protocol for a variety of possible crisis situations, diversity & equity & inclusion or any other emerging issues. Due to the covid restrictions, networking activities were limited to participants of the seminar only.





3. The Annual Mid-Year Conference

The mid-year conference remains one of the Commission's core activities for U.S. grantees to exchange experiences, present their goals and achievements, and discuss both professional and personal issues. The conference is a valuable resource of different perspectives on academic exchanges for the Commission and the Board that can help the Commission to adopt necessary changes and/or improve the administration of the program.

Due to the ongoing pandemic, the mid-year conference could not be organized.

E. OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

The core outreach and recruitment activities to attract prospective candidates of Fulbright awards shifted to the virtual sphere entirely. For this purpose social media and Zoom platform were utilized.

Social media – Instagram, Facebook and LinkedIn (launched on August 1, 2021) – are crucial in communication with the interested audience. The Commission is continuously working and improving communication strategy. Social media increased posts focusing on the Commission activities and alumni impact, i.e. Alumni Spotlight Series. The Commission's web page remains the primary source and administrative tool for information and guidance on the Fulbright Program's opportunities and other scholarships. The Commission is in the final stage of the preparation of a new website. The staff was working intensively on a completely new visual and content of the website to offer the audience a more detailed, comprehensive and up-to-date information on the Fulbright programs.

In order to improve our presence in social media, **Ms. Natalie Gilbert (University of Michigan)** has joined the Commission as Communication and Social Media virtual intern for 6 weeks (May 17 – June 28, 2021).

The Commission activities were as follows:

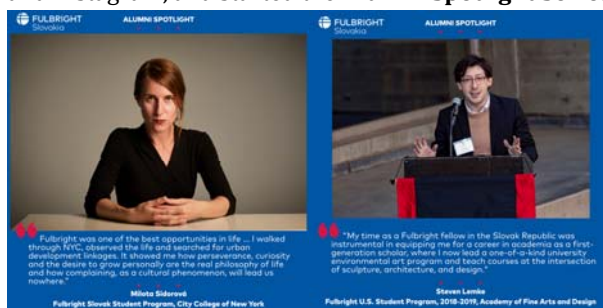
- **Fulbright Visiting Scholar Program** – September 9, 2021 – a Zoom webinar focused on Fulbright Visiting Scholar program followed by a Q&A session with program alumni Ms. Aneta Bobenič Hintošová and Ms. Alžbeta Brozmanová Gregorová.
- **EDAMBA International Scientific Conference for Doctoral Students and Post-Doctoral Scholars** – October 27, 2020 - online presentation of Fulbright scholarships to doctoral students at University of Economics in Bratislava. The presentation was focused on Fulbright programs for PhD. and post-doctoral students and young researchers and their home institutions.
- **International Education Week (November 16 – 20, 2020)**
 - on the occasion of celebrating the IEW 2020, EducationUSA Slovakia prepared several activities. On November 19, the center held a webinar on U.S. Higher Education and Holistic Admissions, in cooperation with New York University Abu Dhabi. The webinar explained and described in details admission procedures of U.S. universities
 - EducationUSA prepared a quiz on U.S. education for Instagram followers. There were three winners who got a package of EducationUSA swag
 - Short videos on 5 steps that, originally recorded in the previous year in collaboration with American Spaces in Slovakia, were shared on Facebook and two short Powtoon promo videos about our services for Slovak students were created.
- **Admission Essays Webinar** - February 26, 2021 - EducationUSA Slovakia was invited to hold a virtual presentation on the topic “Admission Essay” for students of BESST, a private Slovak-English bilingual high school. The presentation was part of the „Day of Opportunity” event organized by mentioned school to help navigate high schoolers through study and job opportunities after their graduation. The webinar focused on personal essays.
- Fulbright Program and EducationUSA presentation in **The Slovak Spectator (February 2021)**-visual presentation (advertisement) of Fulbright Program opportunities and EducationUSA services printed in Slovak Spectator Vol. 27, No.2, edition focused on education and universities. The pdf version was sent to Slovak Spectator’s list of English teachers.
- **What Makes a Good Essay** (webinar, March 24, 2021) - EducationUSA Slovakia joined FLEX Alumni in Slovakia in their essay writing contest and with NYU Abu Dhabi organized an online webinar “What Makes a Good Essay”. It was attended by 74 (out of 95 registered) high school students. Ms. Zita Kassai from NYU Abu Dhabi explained how to write a good narrative statement and what are its key elements. Her presentation was followed by a group exercise and a lively discussion with the audience. The webinar officially kicked off the essay writing contest *The story with a thousand faces* organized by FLEX alumni in Slovakia with the support of the U.S. Embassy Bratislava small grant and Fulbright Slovakia/EducationUSA Slovakia. There were 26 essays submitted.
- **2021 EAIE Online Conference (September 28 – October 1, 2021)** - EducationUSA Adviser Zuzana Kopčanová attended EAIE’s Community Exchange Conference. It was a virtual event with more than 70 hours of live, as well as on-demand content for participants to explore. The event

offered content on a variety of topics connected with international education within the European context.

4. 75th Anniversary of the Fulbright Program

On the occasion of the 75th anniversary of the Fulbright Program worldwide the Commission organized several activities:

- The Commission launched the **LinkedIn profile** on August 1, 2021 in addition to Facebook and Instagram, and started the **Alumni Spotlight Series** celebrating 75 years of the impact



- August 19, 2021** – Executive director Lýdia Tobiášová together with the Fulbright alumna Katarína Maráková were invited for an interview by national news TV channel – TA3, where they presented the Fulbright Program and its impact on the occasion of the 75th anniversary - https://www.ta3.com/relacia/21492/zmenil-zivoty-mnohych-moznost-zucastnit-sa-fulbrightovho-programu-maju-aj-slovaci?fbclid=IwAR1Dmxt_MdJM9L4zkWZETjciUBRcyfbzNvw-oOBzHlbt61W8GZYGDvtvc4



- **August 30, 2021** – The **Slovak Spectator** article: “Fulbright is a life-changing experience, say participants” - <https://spectator.sme.sk/c/22715944/fulbright-program-scholarships-75th-anniversary-slovakia-graduates.html>

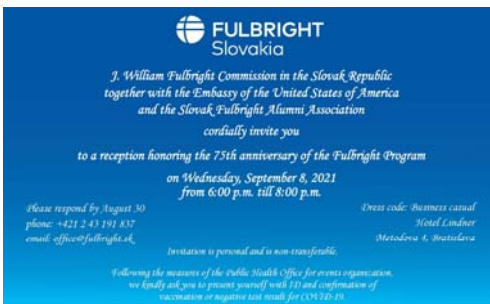


- **September 8, 2021** – The Commission held a celebrating the 75th anniversary of the Program. Our partners, the U.S. Embassy in and the Slovak Ministry of Education, Science and Sport joined the Commission and welcomed our partners, friends and alumni. A

reception
Fulbright
Slovakia
Research,
together
short



promo video highlighting personal experience of Slovak Fulbrighters was prepared



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kpiXRw4HzmM>

- **AmCham Newsletter**– 75th anniversary of the Fulbright Program was included in monthly newsletter: <https://amcham.sk/press-room/news/273570-fulbright-program-celebrates-its-75th-anniversary-become-a-fulbrighter>



Fulbright Program celebrates its 75th anniversary. Become a Fulbrighter

The Fulbright Program connects the United States with more than 140 partner countries worldwide, Slovakia being one of them. Program, which enhances mutual understanding and helps people and nations work together toward common goals, celebrates 75th anniversary this year.

Since the inception of the Fulbright Program in 1946, over 400,000 people from all backgrounds recent graduates, teachers, scientists and researchers, artists, and more have participated in the Fulbright Program to seek greater global understanding and advance ideas in the world at large. Fulbright alumni have achieved distinction in many fields, and include 40 Nobel Prize recipients, 89 Pulitzer Prize winners, and 39 who have served as a head of state or government.

The Fulbright Program began in Slovakia in 1994 and has granted 362 awards to Slovak citizens who have had the opportunity to study, teach or conduct research in the U.S., and 381 American students, scholars, and professionals have been awarded Fulbright grants to a variety of academic fields in Slovakia. Apply for a Fulbright Award, become a Fulbrighter! Currently, there are 3 awards open for Slovak citizens and 1 for Slovak institutions. The Humphrey Fellowship Program offers accomplished young and mid-career professionals with proven leadership potential 30 months of non-degree graduate level study, leadership development, and substantive professional collaboration with U.S. counterparts.

5. ADVISING ACTIVITIES



EducationUSA Center by Fulbright Slovakia is part of a worldwide advising network called EducationUSA. It is the official authority on providing information on educational opportunities in the U.S., sponsored by the U.S. Department of State.

Educational advising is an essential part of Commission’s activities. The mission of the EducationUSA Advising Center is to provide accurate, comprehensive, current and unbiased information about study opportunities for those students who would like to pursue their higher education at accredited postsecondary institutions in the United States. The advising center provides free-of-charge services for those who wish to pursue their postsecondary education in the U.S. through speaking engagements, participation in educational fairs, and contact with competent high school and university staff. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, advising and outreach activities have been conducted only virtually, using either Skype or Zoom platform.

The Commission’s Advising Center actively cooperates with local American Spaces, located in Košice and Banská Bystrica. Both American Spaces are included in the official EducationUSA network and provide basic reference advising services.

Statistics:

Walk-in Visitors	Virtual Advising	Phone Inquires	E-mail Inquires	Outreach	U.S. Institutions Representatives	Web Unique Visitors
123	108	106	158	260*	1	25,727

*including EducationUSA webinars’ participants

F. ALUMNI

Both the U.S. and Slovak alumni remain in close contact with the Commission. They are invited to participate in the evaluation and selection procedures for the various program competitions, and they serve as contacts and hosts for the incoming grantees.

- **Matúš Vallo** (Fulbright Slovak Scholar Program 2010 – 2011) received the World Mayor award! He was acknowledged for his efforts to transform the Slovak capital into a green, compassionate city. The London-based City Mayors Foundation announced the winners of the 2021 World Mayor Prize and Awards on Monday, September 13
- **Michal Mlynár** (Fulbright Teacher Exchange 1998 - 1999) was one of the panelists of the "Fulbright Impact in the Field: 75 Years of Public Diplomacy" panel. The panel brought together a panel of Fulbrighters who make a difference through connecting peoples and nations



- **Mária Kolesárová** (Fulbright Slovak Scholar Program 2017-18) discussed in "Pravidelná dávka" podcast vaccination from the perspective of bioethics. August 10, 2021

She also published an essay "Spravidlivosť a COVID-19: Ako vylúčiť diskrimináciu v preťažených nemocniciach" (Justice and COVID-19: How to eliminate discrimination in hospitals) in the daily Denník N (March 12, 2021) https://dennikn.sk/2308446/spravodlivost-a-covid-19-ako-vylucit-diskriminaciu-v-pretazenych-nemocniciach/?fbclid=IwAR3xHvrboN119rvxwzJlOIZnm-g-oAKKAp6H8aeAGOEfMGrvGaGW0I9LC_c

- **Michal Kšiňan** (Fulbright Slovak Scholar Program 2014 - 2015) presented on TA3 TV his book- first scientific biography of M. R. Štefánik, that was published in Slovak (September 29, 2021)



- **Adam Kurilla** (Humphrey Fellow 2019-20) has been awarded The Humphrey Alumni Impact Award 2021
- **Steven Lemke** (Fulbright U.S. Student 2019-20) has been promoted to the Associate Director & Environmental Artist-in-Residence at The Saint John's Pottery, an endowed visual arts research center at College of Saint Benedict and Saint John's University in Minnesota.

- **Daniel Lipšic** (Fulbright Slovak Student Program 1998 - 1999) has been appointed as the new Special Prosecutor in Slovakia.
- **Michal Hajdúk** (Fulbright Slovak Scholar Program 2017 – 2018) gave an interview for podcast series Rozhovory ZKH on the second wave of COVID-19 pandemic in Slovakia and how it impacted Slovak teenagers and university students (March 12, 2021) <https://video.sme.sk/c/22613687/rozhovory-zkh-psycholog-hajduk-mladi-a-pandemia-video.html>

Michal Hajdúk also discussed depression and social distancing in the times of corona pandemic in series of Zoom webinars Káva o 9 (November 26, 2020)

Michal Hajdúk received an acknowledgement from Comenius University for his outstanding contribution and dedication to his profession (November 19, 2020)

- **Katarína Maráková** (Fulbright Slovak Scholar Program 2020 – 2021) was invited to discuss her Fulbright experience with university students in series of Zoom webinars Káva o 9 (May 27, 2021)
- **Barbora Hrínová** (Fulbright Slovak Student Program 2018 – 2019) debuted with her short stories book collection called Jednorožce (Unicorns) and the book was nominated for Anasoft Litera Prize
- **Laura Dittel** (Humphrey Fellow 2014 – 2015) discussed importance of volunteering, philanthropy and community activities in the eastern Slovakia in podcast series V ženskom rode (April 30, 2021) <https://dennikn.sk/2371983/laura-dittel-z-karpatskej-nadacie-ak-niekto-veri-ze-za-neziskovkami-je-sprisahanie-zmenit-jeho-nazor-je-velmi-tazke/?ref=list>

Link for podcast: <https://www.podbean.com/ew/pb-xpz4z-1021e24>

- **Gabriela Lojová** (Fulbright Slovak Scholar Program 2002 – 2003) organized a webinar for English teachers on how to efficiently teach foreign languages (December 2020)
- **Michal Vašečka** (S-I-R 2019 – 2020) and **Ľubomíra Tóthová** (Fulbright Slovak Scholar Program 2017 – 2018) participated in an online event 2020 Researchers' Night (November 27 – 28, 2020)

G. ADMINISTRATION/STAFF AND FUNDING

Funding: The respective fiscal year of the Fulbright Commission is observed as set by U.S. (October 1 – September 30) and Slovak (January 1 – December 31) regulations. The financial income is composed of two sources of funding: allocation from the U.S. Government and allocation from the Slovak Government.

In-kind contributions to the Commission include tuition waivers, donated office space, air-tickets, funds allocated to other programs through other U.S. or Slovak government activities, health insurance for the grantees, private in-kind sponsorship etc.

The Commission is subject to an independent audit of receipts and disbursements and on the internal control structure on an annual basis. The Slovak Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport audits the expenses from the Slovak government contribution separately.

Administration: Lýdia Tobiášová informed the Board on the notification of the Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic, by letter of November 18, 2020 on the approval of the new Statute of the J. William Fulbright Commission for Educational Exchange in the Slovak Republic (approved on the 57th Board meeting), in accordance with Section 6a para. 3 of the Act No. 116/1985 Coll. on activities of organizations having an international element in the Czechoslovak socialist republic. The Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic notified the Commission, by letter of December 3, 2020 that the Ministry of Interior took note of the change.

Lýdia Tobiášová informed the Board on the reorganization of responsibilities and duties within the Commission as follows:

Dáša Tako Velichová - Fulbright Slovak Scholar Program, Fulbright U.S. Scholar Program, Fulbright Specialist Program, and social media/communications;

Zuzana Kopčanová - Fulbright Slovak Student Program, Fulbright U.S. Student Program, ETA Program, Hubert H. Humphrey Program, Ronald and Eileen Weiser Professional Development Program, and EducationUSA advisor;

Denisa Bezáková – Finance officer

Staff visit: August 16 – 18, 2021 – the Commission Staff visited partners from the Czech Fulbright Commission in their Prague office with the aim to exchange and share best practices. In order to do so, joint staff meeting as well as one-on-one consultations were organized.

Review of Financial Sources Fiscal Year 2021

Income	USD
U.S. Government Contribution	\$ 428,134
SK Government Contribution	\$ 213,285
Subtotal	\$ 641,419
In-Kind Contributions	USD
not included in the Commission's accounting	
Fulbright Specialist Program	None
U.S. Embassy Contribution	\$ 2000

