

The Mutual Educational Exchange Program or the **Fulbright Program**, named in honor of Senator J. William Fulbright, was established by the U.S. Congress on August 1, 1946. It is now administered under the Mutual Educational and Cultural Exchange Act of 1961, as amended by Public Law 87256. This Act provides the legislative authority for the Program. The main objective of this Act is “to enable the government of the United States to increase mutual understanding between the people of the United States and the people of other countries ... and thus to assist in the development of friendly, sympathetic, and peaceful relations, between the United States and other countries of the world.”

The program operates in more than 155 countries. Binational commissions were established by executive agreements in 51 countries. The J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board (FSB) in Washington, DC, comprises 12 educational and public leaders appointed by the President of the United States. It has statutory responsibility for the selection of all academic exchange grantees, the establishment of policies and procedures, and the supervision of the Fulbright Program worldwide. Motivated by the need to change the U.S.’s traditional isolationist policy, the Fulbright Program developed into an indispensable resource for scholars and institutions all over the world. Today, international expertise is even more vital than ever as the realities of the postCold war era become far more complex and the emerging international system increases political and economic linkages throughout the world.

Since its inception, the Fulbright Program has welcomed more than 294,000 researchers, lecturers, high school teachers and students from the United States and the rest of the world. Many have assumed leadership roles, including Nobel and Pulitzer Prize winners, heads of state and prime ministers, artists and ambassadors, governors and senators, professors and physicians, supreme court justices and CEOs. These Fulbrighters, past and present, have enabled the Fulbright Program to become the world’s largest and most prestigious scholarly exchange program.

Sponsored by the U.S. Department of State, the **Fulbright Program** offers opportunities for recent graduates, postgraduate candidates, and developing professionals and artists to conduct career-launching study and research abroad as well as for researchers and lecturers in any fields of arts and sciences. Since the establishment of the Program, about 100,000 grantees from the United States and 194,000 grantees from other countries have benefited from the Fulbright experience. The Program awards approximately 3,000 grants for U.S. and 4,000 for non-U.S. applicants annually and currently operates in over 155 countries worldwide.

The **Fulbright Commission in Hungary** was established in January 1992, after a binational agreement was signed between the governments of Hungary and the United States in December, 1990. The Agreement was renewed in March, 2007 for unlimited time. The Hungarian government has acknowledged the importance of the Fulbright Program and also helps financially. The **Ministry of National Resources** provides the office space for the Commission and significantly contributes toward the program costs.

FULBRIGHT STUDENT CONFERENCE PAPERS

Academic Years

2007/2008, 2008/2009

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Foreword

Following the traditions of the Fulbright Program in Hungary each year close to the end of the grant period U.S. student grantees are invited to present a paper on their professional activities during their grant period in Hungary.

U.S. students compose a vital part of the Fulbright Educational Exchange Program between the United States of America and the Republic of Hungary. Members of the student group are typically for one year in Hungary. Like the Program in general, its student component covers a very wide variety of subject fields and types of activities. Many students take part in different university programs; others concentrate on their individual research project.

The Student Conference gives an opportunity to grantees to summarize the results of their grant period presented to an audience which is composed by the fellow US grantees (including scholars, distinguished chairs, teachers, fellow students) as well as members of the Board of Directors, members of the Alumni Association, the mentors and other invited guests, (in many cases among them visiting family members) too.

As the director of the program, I'm always impressed by the professional progress of our U.S. students, by the wide variety of subject fields covered, by the students' deep interest toward and knowledge of their topic. The event gives the student grantees an opportunity to speak about their projects in a real conference setting, which gives a chance to gain experience in presenting the results of their work in a professional setting.

Papers of the student conference in AY 2007/2008 and AY 2008/2009 can be found in this third volume of the series. (The papers are arranged in a certain thematic order, which does not necessarily follows the original order of the presentations.) I do hope that the readers will like and value the papers as much as I do.

The spirit of the Fulbright Exchange program is to build bridges among nations. I believe that these young people can do and will do a lot for fulfilling the mission of the program. They will be real bridge builders. We need them.

It is my pleasure to greet the Reader in the 20th year of the operation of the Fulbright Commission in Hungary. When we recognize this great anniversary we also pay tribute to our grantees and all supporters of the program.

December, 2010

Dr. Huba Brückner

executive director

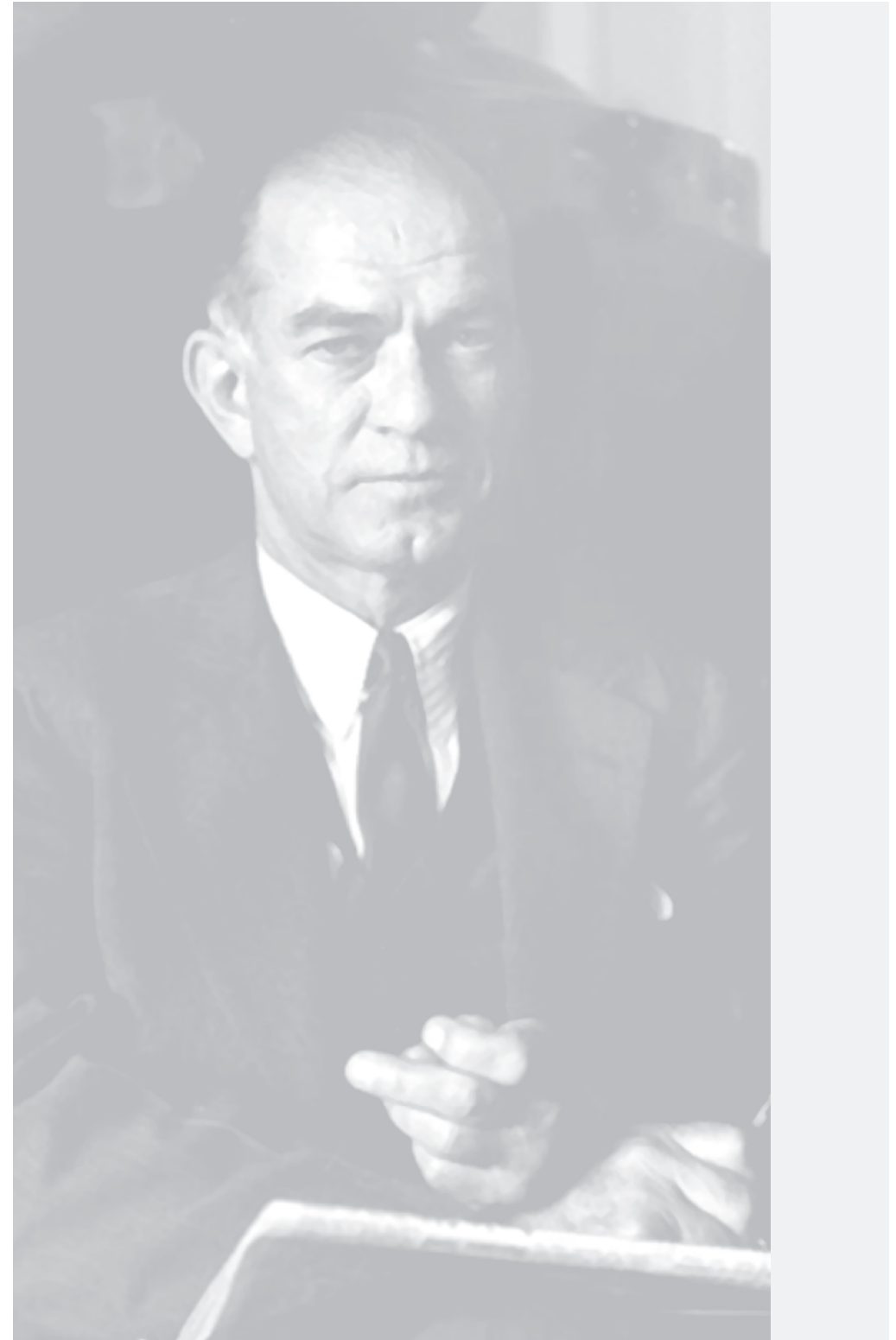


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