

“Sixty Years Young” Letter from the Director



There is a portrait of Ben Cherrington in my office. He has a twinkle in his eye and an impish smile as if he is about to tell you something that will make you grin. Although I never met him, I am told it is a good likeness.

Dr. Cherrington came to Denver in 1951 to open an office for IIE. The story goes like this: in 1950, Dr. Cherrington worked for IIE in New York and helped to figure out how the new Fulbright program would be administered around the country. In the days before fax machines, e-mail, copy machines and affordable long distance calls, the answer was obvious: regional offices. After identifying and setting up about six locations around the country, he was given the opportunity to choose one of them to direct. He chose Denver.

I often wonder at the foresight and vision of a man like Dr. Cherrington, who was able to see the potential in Denver which, at the time, must have lived up to its reputation as a cow town. It was hardly a mecca for international anything, yet the IIE flag flew high as a result of his leadership. In the sixty years that followed, IIE has become more and more a part of the Denver landscape, even as Denver has become more and more part of the world.

The IIE that Dr. Cherrington’s twinkling eyes would see today is sixty years young. We are a multi-generational organization

(a word that probably didn’t exist in his day). My young staff is as enthused and excited about our mission as Dr. Cherrington must have been when he opened the door on that first day in 1951. We continue to attract bright grad student interns from area universities and fantastic older volunteers from Cherry Creek and Thornton and Lakewood and Brighton and Littleton. Both sets are bringing great skills to the Institute, skills like social marketing, volunteer training, organizing, recruiting, researching, writing and event management.

I don’t think Dr. Cherrington would understand the explosion of wires and screens and small black boxes on our desks, and he might wonder where the secretaries, typists and receptionists are. He would certainly recognize the work. He could appreciate our staff diligently answering students’ questions, keeping tabs on their progress, arranging programs for State Department international visitors, inviting speakers to Denver and finding every way possible to engage Coloradans with their world. I like to think he would be proud of what he did in 1951 and even prouder of how it has evolved.

Karen de Bartolomé
Executive Director
Rocky Mountain Region

Fulbright Seminar Summary

From February 24-27, the Institute of International Education (IIE) Rocky Mountain Center hosted 136 Fulbrighters from 67 different countries for the annual Fulbright Enrichment Seminar in Denver. The theme of this year’s seminar was “Greening of the Planet: Global Challenges, Local Solutions” and focused on sustainability and how we can work locally to improve our planet. This four-day Seminar is an integral part of the Fulbright experience, benefiting first-year Fulbright foreign students and supporting the overall mission of the Fulbright Program – to increase mutual understanding between the people of the United States and the people of other countries. The Denver Fulbright Enrichment Seminar is one of nine enrichment seminars hosted across the United States by the U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA) as part of its flagship Fulbright Program.

Andrew Romanoff, former Colorado Speaker of the House and current Senior Advisor for International Development Enterprises, was the Keynote Presenter for the Opening Dinner at the Grand Hyatt. Highlights of the program included a scenic tour of the Rocky Mountains, a closing dinner at the Denver

Art Museum with tours of the Western Art and American Indian Art Galleries, and a series of community service events at local organizations Groundwork Denver, The GrowHaus, UrbiCulture Farms, and Veterans’ Green Jobs. The Seminar also featured expert panelists Bill Becker (Natural Capitol Solutions), Karen Ashmore (Lambi Fund of Haiti), Joe Verrengia (National Renewable Energy Laboratory), Beth Conover (Econover LLC), Richard Franklin (Clean Tech Open), and Joanne Keys (Alliance for Sustainable Colorado).

In addition the Fulbright Enrichment Seminar, IIE-Rocky Mountain will also host a Reentry Seminar for Fulbright Women from the Andean region of South America (Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, & Venezuela) from March 30 – April 3, 2011. This four-day seminar will be held at the University of Denver’s Women’s College and will focus on giving these Fulbrighters the tools and resources to be successful as they reenter their home country upon completing their Fulbright experience. All Fulbright Women will be stay with local host families for three nights, so if you would like to host or have any questions about the program, please contact Joey Ham at jham@iie.org.



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UPCOMING EVENTS

March 21, 2011

Jim Zogby "Arab Voices"

Author of "Arab Voices: What They Are Saying to Us and Why It Matters", founder/president of the Arab American Institute (AAI), and leading expert on Arab American issues, Dr. Jim Zogby will share his insights into current issues related to Arab-Americans.

5:30-7:00 PM

April 11, 2011

David Makovsky

David Makovsky is the Ziegler distinguished fellow and director of the Washington Institute for Near East Policy Project on the Middle East Peace Process. He has also coauthor of the book "Myths, Illusions, & Peace" with senior White House advisor Dennis Ross.

TBD

April 20, 2011

John Connor "Navigating Real World Russia"

Join us for breakfast with John Connor as we navigate through real world Russia and see what's at stake for the future.

Thousands of Russians, frustrated by the sharp economic decline, turned out this year for anti-government protests. While frustration is understandable, the Russian government is taking serious steps to ensure long-term economic stability.

7:30-9:00 AM

May 18, 2011

Mia Bloom "Gendercide and Suicide Terrorism"

Dr. Bloom provides an "explanation of the unexplainable," a comprehensive overview of the historical roots and contemporary motivations of suicide terror and the deliberate use of rape during war, a practice termed "Gendercide."

7:30-9:00 AM

*For more information or to register for these events, please visit
<http://www.rockymountainiie.org>*