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January 27th, 2020

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BUREAU OF EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS

**INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE ALUMNI**

Inspire. Empower. Connect.

Dear Friends of #ExchangeAlumni,

Welcome to the January edition of our Exchange Alumni Newsletter. We continue to develop and grow our programming, and we have several updates and alumni highlights to share with you – including our work on Season 3 of the podcast known as 22.33 and our growing LinkedIn page of 3,700 followers and counting!

Have alumni-related questions or content to share? Reach out to Emily Rand at [RandEF@state.gov](mailto:RandEF@state.gov). To add someone to this newsletter, email us at [ECA\\_P\\_A\\_Outreach@state.gov](mailto:ECA_P_A_Outreach@state.gov).

## What Does It Take to Start Your Own Nonprofit?

**#MentorTalks**  
Starting a Successful Nonprofit

*Julia Beabout*  
Co-founder of Tech in the Tenderloin

*Brian McCarty*  
President & Executive Director, War Toys

Thursday, January 28,  
at 1 PM EST

We are excited to welcome Fulbright Specialist alumnus Brian McCarty, President & Executive Director of [War Toys®](#), as well as CLS alumna Julia Beabout, CEO and Creative Director of [Novaby](#), to discuss their experiences founding non-profits on our next MentorTalks episode on **Thursday, January 28 at 1pm ET**. Tune in on

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2021 marks the 75th anniversary of the Fulbright Program, and we'll hear from Brian about how his Fulbright experience helped to shape his career path. To celebrate this milestone anniversary, we'll continue to hear from Fulbright alumni as they join us on the third season of our [podcast](#), which we'll be unveiling soon. Stay tuned for a new look!

[Find the Full Story Here](#)

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## Alumni Engagement Innovation Fund (AEIF) 2021

ECA/P/A is pleased to announce the launch of the redesigned Alumni Engagement Innovation Fund (AEIF). Building on improvements made last year, and drawing from lessons learned from the COVID-19 Alumni Rapid Response Fund, all alumni engagement funding opportunities will be merged into a single, more agile AEIF grants program.

This new format supports a post-driven alumni engagement strategy, and increase collaboration with alumni teams to develop projects directly aligned with U.S. foreign policy and posts' ICS goals. AEIF 2021 allows posts to respond to emerging in-country and regional needs by supporting public service projects designed and led by posts and USG exchange alumni for projects needing \$10,000 up to \$50,000.

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## Alumni Collaboration and Engagement (ACE)

Join us on **Wednesday, February 10th at 2pm ET** for our next Alumni Collaboration and Engagement (ACE) Working Group meeting (formerly the ECA Alumni Working Group). This session's theme will focus on supporting U.S. citizen alumni. As we develop our Career Connections and Citizen Diplomacy Action Fund programs, we are exploring effective ways to continue to engage U.S. citizen exchange alumni, which includes nominating alumni to join a U.S. alumni council. If interested, reach out to [RandEF@state.gov](mailto:RandEF@state.gov) to receive a meeting link. We hope to see you there!

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## Using Technology to Improve and Support Democracy

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We are thrilled to host an Alumni TIES TechCamp Reconnect session at this spring's Alumni TIES from **March 15-26, 2021**. At this virtual seminar, participants will have the chance to connect and network with other exchange alumni, including TechCamp alumni from Latin America and U.S. citizen alumni who travelled to the Americas during their exchange program. This seminar aims to accelerate the development of innovative technology-supported solutions and digital strategies for strengthening media literacy, with sub-topics including democratic governance, transparency, elections, anti-corruption, and post-COVID-19 disinformation.

[Access Past Alumni TIES Here](#)

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## When a Crisis Hits, Exchange Alumni Rise and Respond



U.S. and foreign exchange program alumni have been harnessing their international exchange experiences to give back to their local communities for decades. This year is no exception, as alumni have delivered on many fronts, coming up with innovative solutions to pandemic-related public health and economic challenges.

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needs in their local communities.

[Access the DipNote Story Here](#)

## Recent Alumni Highlights



Annisa Hasanah Arsyad's interest in environmental education was piqued long before the global pandemic hit. But when millions of business-owners were uprooted from their jobs in Indonesia amidst COVID-19, her passion became even more critical.



With facemasks now a customary part of our daily lives, [Fulbright Foreign Student](#) alumnus Cosmas Mwikirize saw the need for a more sustainable solution to protective equipment and came up with an innovative solution.

## Best Performing Social Media Content



Twitter

High impact on multiple fronts? That's the power of [#ExchangeAlumni!](#) During the pandemic, 1 of [@WashFellowship](#) fellow

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training platform, trained 246 birth attendants, and reached 6,178 mothers with safe labor kits. Adepeju's leadership got her elected to be the first female president of the Mandela Washington Fellowship Alumni Association of Nigeria ever! Way to go, Peju! [@YALINetwork](#)

## Facebook



[#ExchangeAlumni](#), we have a special offer for you! The Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs at the U.S. Department of State invites you to apply for a new, \*free\* storytelling training course. Alumni of U.S. government funded and sponsored exchange programs, who are interested in being trained in storytelling and creating short (1-2 minute) video stories, are eligible. Interested in applying? Send us your details at [exchangealumni@state.gov](mailto:exchangealumni@state.gov).

## LinkedIn

We are so excited to have hit 3,700 followers on LinkedIn! Our page is a great way for alumni to learn about upcoming opportunities and connect with one another. We can be found at [#ExchangeAlumni - Alumni Affairs](#).

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## Upcoming Deadlines & Events

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**February 12th at 12pm ET:** Career Connections Session

**February 23rd:** MentorTalks with Jason Carroll, YES alumnus and Brown University Student Body President

**March 15th-26th:** Alumni TIES, TechCamp Reconnect Session Dates TBD

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## Alumni Resources

**International Exchange Alumni Website** ([link](#))

**Alumni Thematic International Exchange Seminars** ([link](#))

**Citizen Action Diplomacy Fund** ([link](#))

**Alumni Engagement Innovation Fund** ([link](#))

**Alumni Archive** ([link](#))

**U.S. Citizen Alumni Newsletters** ([link](#))

**International Alumni Newsletters** ([link](#))

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## Got an Alumni Story?



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exchange programs. Their courage, ingenuity, and kindness are the threads that we, the Office of Alumni Affairs within the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA), pull together to build a stronger alumni network.

But, we need your help. We know alumni are often working across cultures, classrooms, and communities to ensure people are staying strong, safe, and healthy. Encourage the alumni you work with to tag us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) with #ExchangeAlumni to share out their stories of a brighter and healthier future, and be sure to follow us @22.33\_stories on [Instagram](#)!

We also encourage alumni to follow our LinkedIn page, [#ExchangeAlumni - Alumni Affairs](#) to learn more about upcoming networking events, job opportunities, career advice, and more. They can add in a section on their exchange program experience on their work profile to find out who they might know, and to connect with an alumnus who might spark their next big project or idea.

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