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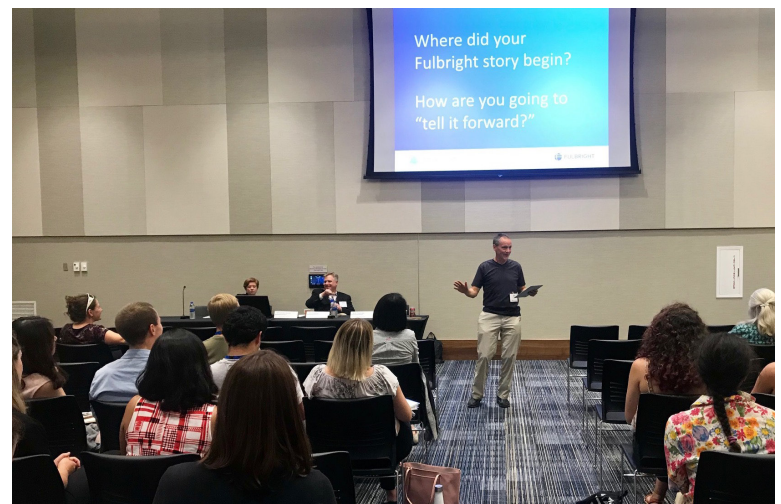


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KU INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS AND CREES SUCCESSFULLY HOST THE FULBRIGHT PRE-DEPARTURE ORIENTATION FOR GRANTEES TRAVELING TO EUROPE AND EURASIA

The KU Office of International Affairs and the Center for Russian, East European and Eurasian Studies (CREES) successfully organized and hosted a Pre-Departure Orientation (PDO) from July 21-26 for 234 American Fulbright grantees, in preparation for their research and teaching in Europe and Eurasia during 2019-2020. The Fulbright grantees were comprised of U.S. scholars, student researchers, and English teaching assistants, many of whom will work in Russia, Ukraine and other countries in Eastern Europe.

During the weeklong orientation, Fulbright grantees attended sessions to further develop their research and teaching skills, and gain practical tools for living and working in a new country. From July 21-23, the Fulbright English teaching assistants participated in a workshop focused on effective tools and techniques for teaching English abroad. From July 23-25, KU faculty and staff, along with staff from the U.S. Department of State and Institute of International Education led a variety of panels and sessions for all Fulbright grantees related to living, working and conducting research abroad, as well as country-specific information. Fulbright alumni also shared their experiences and mentored the new Fulbright grantees.



Jon Giullian, KU Slavic librarian, and Bob Tryanski, professional storyteller, engaged the audience during a presentation on "Practical Tools for Telling your Fulbright Story." Giullian shared tips for utilizing different media platforms to tell one's Fulbright story.

Session topics included *Personal Health and Well-Being*, *The Role of Fulbright in U.S. Foreign Policy*, *Practical Tools for Telling your Fulbright Story*, *Intercultural Competency*, *Planning for Accompanying Spouses or Dependents*, *Your Identity Abroad*, to name a few, as well as breakout sessions on specific countries. The keynote address was given by Dr. David Besson, Professor of Physics and Astronomy, and Fulbright Scholar (2006 and 2015). In addition to his Fulbright awards, he was a recipient of a Russian Ministry of Science and Education 'megagrant' for which he led a team of 20 Russian researchers on a project devoted to the development of silicon photomultipliers.

It was a tremendous accomplishment and honor to host such a large pre-departure orientation for a talented group of Fulbright awardees. This was the largest of the Fulbright orientations, and the first time in recent years that it was held outside of Washington, D.C. The International Affairs, CREES and other KU units did an exemplary job in planning, organizing, and carrying out the logistics of this program. A special thanks goes to Dr. Rachel Sherman Johnson, Director of Internationalization and Partnerships in KU International Affairs, and the Principal Investigator of the Fulbright Pre-Departure Ori-

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