



United States Department of State

*Assistant Secretary  
for Educational and Cultural Affairs*

*Washington, D.C. 20547*

September 26, 2008

Dear Dr. Reed:

I am so pleased to offer my congratulations to Anne and Roy Freed as State Department Alumni Members of the Month for March 2008 and to welcome all of the Fulbrighters and friends of Fulbright gathered today. I send a special word of thanks to you, Dr. Reed, and the Board of the Massachusetts Fulbright Association, for organizing this wonderful event.

This year, we celebrate the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Fulbright Program, the flagship international educational program sponsored by the United States Government. Through this, and myriad other international exchange programs, hundreds of thousands of participants from countries around the world, and from all over the United States, have had opportunities to build common bonds, share ideas and further their mutual understanding. As Assistant Secretary of State for Educational and Cultural Affairs, I have made engagement with our nearly one million alumni a priority.

As alumni of exchange programs, you all know that your exchange experience doesn't stop when you return home. Certainly Anne and Roy Freed exemplify the finest qualities of alumni promoting mutual understanding. Their joint memoir, "Fulbrighters in Retirement: Networking with Bulgarians Keeps Us Engaged," tells, in their words, the "inspiring story of the opportunities Fulbrighters have to contribute to international amity" through their exchange experiences. The Freed's rich and varied interactions with Bulgarians and Americans over so many years show true dedication to the ideals of J. William Fulbright.

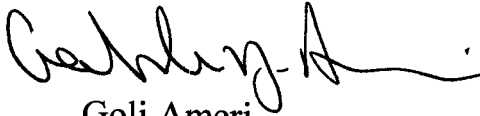
Dr. James Reed,  
President,  
Massachusetts Fulbright Association.

Our nation must engage with the rest of the world. To be successful, all sides must speak and all sides must listen. Our interaction with the world must be a conversation, not a monologue. Many of these conversations, I am very proud to say, begin with exchange programs run by the State Department's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs.

The State Department is committed to promoting a global community of alumni who build common bonds and share ideas. Our State Department Alumni dedicated webpage -- [alumni.state.gov](http://alumni.state.gov) – is a prestigious web-based community where you can network with fellow alumni from around the world, participate in on-line discussions with top level government and private sector officials, access a free academic journal database, and obtain information about jobs, grants, events, and news about alumni association activities. If you are not already a member, I urge you to join. You can also take a look at the State Department Alumni Member of the Month report featuring the Freed's.

It could not be clearer that these exchanges are a strategic pillar of international understanding and relations. I wish Mr. and Mrs. Freed all of the very best as they continue their Fulbright experience.

Sincerely,



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