

# Open discussion on postgraduate studies at USA

**23 May 2019**

Venue: Ceremonial Hall, Central Administration Building, NTUA

This event is addressed to all NTUA students who are interested in studying in the US universities at a graduate level (Master or Ph.D.).

It is organized by the School of ECE-NTUA in collaboration with the IEEE NTUA Student Branch and the US Fulbright Association.



**National Technical University of Athens**  
School of Electrical and Computer Engineering

**FULBRIGHT**



# AGENDA

11:00-11:30	<b>Welcome Addresses</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>&gt; Nectarios Koziris, Professor, Dean of the School of ECE-NTUA</li><li>&gt; Maria Gazouli, Associate Professor, Medical School, National &amp; Kapodistrian University of Athens, President of Greek Fulbright Alumni Association</li><li>&gt; Nicholas Tourides, Educational Advisor/American Program Coordinator, Fulbright Foundation in Greece</li><li>&gt; Stefanos Achlatis, IEEE NTUA Student Branch</li></ul>
11:30-12:00	<b>Meet and Engage with Fulbrighters</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>&gt; Ms Kathryn Brown</li><li>&gt; Dr Cynthia Fletcher</li><li>&gt; Dr Lehman Fletcher</li><li>&gt; Dr Edward Kifer</li><li>&gt; Dr Russell Lidman</li><li>&gt; Dr Russanne Low</li><li>&gt; Dr Erna Olafson</li><li>&gt; Dr Susan Opt</li></ul>
12:00-13:00	<b>Panel Discussions</b> <p>The panel discussions will focus on the opportunities offered by the US higher education system to the graduate level students, as well as on valuable information and insights for important issues. The discussion aims to bring together views by experts from the university sector, which they have gained through their professional experience, and feedback on the topics or fresh perspectives by NTUA students. To help the process and avoid delays, we chose 7 topics, which cover a wide range of important issues, to be introduced briefly by the panelists and drive engagement with the audience. These are indicative topics that can be used to kick-off the session, but attendees are free to add topics to the following list that suit their changing needs, concerns and interests or submit questions in the frame of the “Q and A” session that follow.</p> <b>Indicative Topics</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Tips for writing the resume, statement of purpose</li><li>2. Funding opportunities (TA-SHIP, RA-SHIP, Fellowships )</li><li>3. Admission tips/strategies/requirements</li><li>4. Choosing institution/program (How to look for a good match)</li><li>5. Links between university and industry</li><li>6. Cost of living/tuition</li><li>7. Graduate student life</li></ol>
13:00-13:25	<b>Break</b>
13:25-14:15	<b>“Question and Answer” session</b> <p>In this session, the audience can submit questions, about certain topics that want to hear answered as completely as possible. A microphone will be available for the audience. Due to the time limit, attendees are encouraged to prepare in advance or make note of their questions throughout the event and give them to the moderator. Q and A sessions often represent the moment of the highest learning value, so make sure that you get involved! The session will be moderated by students of the IEEE NTUA SB.</p>

## ABOUT THE FULBRIGHTERS (SPEAKERS)



**Kathryn Brown** Madison OH

Fulbright: Israel (1985); Italy (1997); Mexico & Guatemala (2000)

Kathryn taught Ancient History, Archaeology, and Anthropology at Walnut Hills High School in Cincinnati OH from 1973 to 2001. She has received a number of grants to study Archaeology and has frequently traveled in the summers.

On one of her numerous previous trips to Greece, she studied at the American Classical School in Athens. Kathryn assisted a Greek teacher in an English class at Gazi High School in Crete. She is in love with Greece and believes that Sounion is one of the most beautiful places in Greece.

Since her retirement, she has continued to travel and do genealogy. She also is a skier in the winters and enjoys hiking in the National Parks. Kathryn participates in bicycle trips and spent two weeks cycling the Loire Valley in France a couple of years ago.

She lives in northeastern Ohio, near Lake Erie.

---



**Dr Cynthia Fletcher** Ames IA

Cynthia ("Cyndi") is a long-time faculty member at Iowa State University and a native Iowan. She enjoys travel but is always happy to return to Ames. She enjoyed joining the Fulbright trip to Peru and is looking forward to learning more about Greece.

She has always wanted to visit Greece since taking Western Civilization and art history in college. The culture, the food, the language and the beauty of Greece intrigue her.

She is a Professor in the Department of Human Development and Family Studies at Iowa State University.

<https://www.hs.iastate.edu/directory/profile.php?u=cynthia@embedded=true>

---



**Dr Lehman Fletcher** Ames IA

Fulbright: India (2009); Bulgaria (2011); Malaysia (2013); Ukraine (2015); India (2017)

Lehman ("Lee") retired in 2003 after 40+ years of teaching and research. His field was economic development and he traveled to several low-income countries.

He once stopped briefly in Athens with Cindy but has long wanted to return for a longer visit.

The itinerary for this trip provided that opportunity. He has also followed Greece's difficult economic adjustment with the European Union and would like to see how the country is doing.

<https://www.econ.iastate.edu/people/lehman-fletcher>

## ABOUT THE FULBRIGHTERS (SPEAKERS)



**Dr Edward Kifer** Lexington KY

Fulbright in Czech Republic, 2003

Edward (Skip) is Professor Emeritus, College of Education, University of Kentucky. His PhD is from the University of Chicago in Measurement, Evaluation and Statistical Analysis. He taught in those areas for 30+ years at the University of Kentucky with occasional forays outside to UCLA, SUNY Buffalo and the University of Louisville.

Skip has been a Spencer Fellow at the University of Stockholm, Chair of the International Technical Committee and member of International and U.S. National coordinating committees for the International Association for the Evaluation of Achievement (IEA) Second International Mathematics Study. He is one of five persons who designed the Commonwealth of Kentucky's initial (then defensible-unlikely now) assessment system. Skip was a member of the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) Design and Analysis committee (DAC) and an AERA fellow at the National Center for Education Statistics.



**Dr Russell Lidman** Tumwater WA

Fulbright: Perú (1983-84); Ecuador (1994); México (2017); Specialist in Honduras (2004-06); Nicaragua (2007)

Russell ("Russ") has lived in the Pacific Northwest for many years where he has had a varied career.

He began teaching at The Evergreen State College and later became Academic Vice President and Provost.

Russ also worked as a policy advisor, with responsibility for human service programs and legislation for several Washington State governors.

He finished his career at Seattle University, where he directed some academic programs and taught public policy.

Russ has had experience as a Fulbright professor in several Latin American countries. He has traveled some in north and central Europe and Spain but has never been to Greece.

He once took a class in Greek history in college, and he likes Greek food. Russ has two children, three grandsons, two dogs and one cat.

He has been active in the local chapter of the Fulbright Association and finds them a congenial group.



**Dr Russanne Low** Boulder CO

Russanne ("Rusty") is a senior scientist at the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies, Arlington VA and lead NASA GLOBE Observer Mosquito Habitat Mapper, a citizen science project supporting the reduction of vector borne disease risk in communities. She is currently finishing a project in Brazil and Peru as part of USAID's Combating Zika and Future Threats portfolio and leading the international GLOBE Mission Mosquito Citizen Science Campaign, 2018-2021.

Before deciding to focus on citizen science outreach, Rusty served on the faculty of the University of Maryland, Munich Campus and was an associate professor in the School of Natural Resources, University of Nebraska. She has experience and expertise with developing online education portals and courses through universities, PBS Learning Media and NASA GLOBE, and she loves this kind of work.

Rusty was a graduate student at the University of Alberta, Canada and Ludwig Maximilian Universität in Munich and obtained a PhD at the University of Minnesota as part of the Paleorecords of Global Change program (2001). She has two adult children and lives with her scientist husband, her mother and a St. Bernard in Boulder CO.

She is interested in Greece, history, archaeology and landscapes and also speaks German.

<https://www.globe.gov/web/rustylow>

## ABOUT THE FULBRIGHTERS (SPEAKERS)



**Dr Erna Olafson** Cincinnati OH

Fulbright:Germany (1960-61)

Erna has a PhD in history and a PsyD in clinical psychology and is Associate Professor Emerita of Clinical Psychiatry and Pediatrics at the University of Cincinnati College of Medicine and Cincinnati Children's Hospital. She is also Senior Faculty in the Center for Trauma Recovery and Juvenile Justice in the National Child Traumatic Stress Network Center (NCTSN).

She has held leadership roles in the NCTSN since 2003, currently on the Steering Committee and has co-authored two books: "Victorian Women", Stanford Press (1981) and "Trauma and Grief Component Therapy for Adolescents", Cambridge Press(2017).

In her prior career as a historian, Erna was a 1960-61 Fulbright Scholar to West Berlin, a Teaching and Research Fellow and then a visiting lecturer at Stanford, Sonoma State, and the Universities of California at Berkeley and Santa Cruz. She has three children and three grandchildren. As a psychologist who focuses on trauma treatment for both youth and adult survivors of adverse events, she is interested in this Fulbright service trip and in seeing more of Greece.



**Dr Susan Opt Winston**-Salem NC

Fulbright: Czech Republic, 2009

Susan retired in September 2018 from her position as a Professor of Communication Studies at James Madison University in Virginia. She served as a Fulbright Scholar at Masaryk University in the Czech Republic in 2009.

Susan earned her doctorate at the Ohio State University and has taught at universities in Germany, Florida, Texas, and North Carolina.

In her free time, she enjoys spending time with her husband and cats at home in Winston-Salem NC, traveling to new places, and playing background roles in various TV series, such as Banshee, Homeland, Good Behavior, Under the Dome, Vice Principals, Outcast, and Shots Fired, and movies, such as Max, The Longest Ride, Are You Here, and Paper Towns.