

Madame Ambassador, Mr. State Secretary, Honorable Guests, dear friends!

I am both humbled and greatly honored by this event and your presence. Thank you Madame Ambassador for the invitation!

It will be a challenge to follow Huba's footsteps and to live up to the high standards he has set. On the other hand I am deeply impressed with the professionalism, commitment and dedication of our staff, and have full confidence that will continue to deliver outstanding service.

Our cause is noble, worthy and difficult. We are changing the lives of both Hungarian and American Fulbrighters, and contributing directly to better and deeper relations between our two countries.

In the coming weeks we will be proposing new efforts aimed at Roma academics, and hope to expand our ties with both Hungarian and American institutions who have not yet been involved with Fulbright.

Your presence here gives me confidence that ours is a true team effort, and I am counting on you to keep me in line and focused.

I want to again thank all of you for your support and encouragement, and I look forward to working with you to expand the reach of Fulbright to the full spectrum of Hungarian society.

I wish you all good health and have a very pleasant evening!