

BOGDAN V. BANU

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Meridian International Center, Washington, DC

Program Officer – Team Lead, GlobalConnect Division

November 2006 – present

- Managed all of the major international development grants awarded to Meridian by the U.S. Department of State and USAID; the grants totaling over \$6 million were executed in high-risk areas, including Iraq, Iran and West Bank
- Implemented over 90 short-term professional development exchange programs on various topics for a global audience nominated by U.S. Embassies, foreign governments, private corporations and other entities
- Directed the U.S. Congress – Korean National Assembly Exchange Program, including all aspects of program and team management, recruitment and selection process, communications, logistics, formal presentations, oversight of project staff, financial management, and program evaluation; the program brought together highly motivated Congressional Interns and students from the two countries for an opportunity to broaden their perspectives and knowledge about the legislative processes, the history of U.S.-Korean bilateral relations, and current economic, political and security aspects of the bilateral relationship
- Lead the development of major proposals for a variety of exchange projects working in close cooperation with U.S. and international universities, in-country partners and domestic and foreign NGOs
- Maintained oversight and proper stewardship of federal monies in accordance with OMB Circular A-133 and Department of State standard terms and conditions
- Provided financial and logistical management to multiple sub-contractors and in-country staff; oversaw and directed teams and personnel operating in the field
- Organized and coordinated international conferences in Washington, DC, London, and Johnson City, TN
- Created monitoring mechanisms for grants management and developed strategies and guidelines for the small-grants component of some of these projects
- Ensured the review and quality assurance of program activities and the development and timely submission of reporting deliverables, including quarterly and final narrative and financial reports
- Advised the Division Director on new business development and growth strategies; liaised with Development Division on new opportunities aimed at the private sector
- Coordinated media outreach activities and developed social media content for the GlobalConnect Division

Program Officer, International Visitors Leadership Program (IVLP)

2004 / June 2005 – November 2006

- Designed and implemented the official visits of high-level international professionals traveling to the U.S. as part of the Department of State's International Visitors Leadership Program (IVLP); the visits addresses such diverse topics as: U.S. political system, journalism, political campaigns and elections, rule of law, intellectual propriety rights, agriculture, education, tourism, health, and economics
- Wrote project proposals; researched and identified the most suitable U.S.-based partners and professional resources in Washington, DC
- Worked closely with the U.S. Department of State on various aspects of these programs and coordinated the work of local partners; supervised the work of the Program Associate
- Created full budgets and provided final accounting at the conclusion of several outside projects

Program Coordinator, Open World Leadership Program

May 2004 - November 2005

- Conceptualized and wrote a proposal to expand the reach of the Open World Program in Ukraine, Lithuania and Uzbekistan and compiled the final reports
- Oversaw the work of various U.S.-based implementing partners and that of the Program Associate
- Improved the financial forms to ensure a clear and efficient relationship with Meridian's partners
- Conducted periodic presentations about Meridian International Center for visiting Russian officials

Program Associate, IVLP

January - September 2000 / June 2001 - June 2002

- Provided logistical support to foreign professionals and politicians traveling in the U.S. as part of the Department of State's International Visitors Leadership Program
- Managed grant funds and all program expenses, and developed budget proposals
- Maintained an open communication with interpreters, visitors and programming personnel
- Translated into Romanian the Visitor's Welcome Package and various financial forms

ASTROM – Association of Students and Young Professionals from Romania in the Washington, DC Area

President

2007 – 2015

- Led the largest Romanian-American organization in the Washington, DC area with well over 1,000 members
- Organized, coordinated and promoted almost 500 events including for seven years the Romanian Happy Hour Series, a landmark event for Romanian, Moldovan and American young professionals from throughout the Nation's Capital
- Hosted key events for leading politicians and officials from Romania and the Republic of Moldova
- Developed a series of professional seminars, cultural events, theater performances, and concerts by leading artists from Romania and the Republic of Moldova
- Worked closely with the Romanian Embassy to the U.S. and the Romanian Cultural Institute in New York City to advance and promote Romania and the Romanian culture as well as the Romanian-American community
- Secured the first official recognition of June 24 as the Official Day of the Romanian Blouse in the American Capital recognized as such in a proclamation signed by H.E. Muriel Bowser, the Mayor of Washington; over 100 Romanians in traditional folk costumes gathered in front of the White House in 2015 to mark the event – the largest gathering of Romanians in front of this most important landmark

Congress of Romanian Americans, McLean, Virginia**Webmaster / Newsletter Editor**

November 1998 – September 2004

- Designed and continuously updated the Congress' bilingual English-Romanian website
- Edited and published the quarterly newsletter
- Assisted in various capacities with the Congress's Annual Meetings and provided translation services during these official meetings

LinkRomania Foundation, Inc., Washington, DC**Research Analyst**

November 2000 - April 2001

- Organized and coordinated fund-raising and cultural activities
- Worked as an outside consultant with the Embassy of Romania in projects related to adoption issues
- Researched various materials partaking to international adoptions
- Designed and developed a comprehensive web site

The Embassy of Romania to the United States, Washington, DC**Intern, Political Section**

September - December 1998

- Analyzed Romania's political and economic arguments for NATO membership
- Provided in depth analysis of the U.S. economic interests in the Caspian Sea region
- Coordinated logistical and planning aspects for the official visit in the U.S. of the Romanian Prime Minister
- Translated documents, prepared official correspondence, hosted and briefed economic delegations
- Organized cultural activities, and performed various administrative duties

EDUCATION

Master of Arts, Political Management

May 2009

Graduate School of Political Management, George Washington University

Washington, DC

- Cumulative Grade Point Average: 3.5

Bachelor of Arts, International Relations

August 1999

David M. Kennedy Center for International Studies, Brigham Young University

Provo, Utah

- Cumulative Grade Point Average: 3.5 / Major GPA 3.6
- International Student Honor Roll; recipient of the Alumni Replenishment Grant
- Founder and President of Club România: 1996-97, Vice-president: 1998
- Member of the winning BYU team of the Model United Nations Conference in New York: 1998-99

Certificate of Participation, Training Program for Public Servants

July 2013 & July 2014

Stanford University, Graduate School of Business

Stanford, California

Graduate Certificate, Political Action Committees Management

May 2009

Graduate School of Political Management, George Washington University

Washington, DC

Certificate, Professional Grant Proposal Writing

May 2005

Institute for Communication Improvement, Grant Institute

Washington, DC

PUBLICATIONS / PRESENTATIONS (SELECTION)

<i>The Romanian Blouse and the Many Forms of Cultural Diplomacy</i> The LEAD - Meridian International Center	June 2015 Washington, DC
<i>Ukraine – Communicating Strategically</i> The LEAD - Meridian International Center	April 2015 Washington, DC
<i>The “Spark” of Euromaidan and Meridian</i> The LEAD - Meridian International Center	February 2015 Washington, DC
<i>Aventuri culinare istro-române la București</i> Romanian Global News	January 2015 Bucharest, Romania
<i>“The Interview” vs. The Real North Korea</i> The LEAD - Meridian International Center	January 2015 Washington, DC
<i>Thoughts on “The Interview” and North Korea</i> The LEAD - Meridian International Center	December 2014 Washington, DC
<i>Local Reporting on a Global Scale</i> The LEAD - Meridian International Center	July, 2014 Washington, DC
<i>Mărțișor la Washington</i> Romanian Global News	February, 2014 Bucharest, Romania
<i>Meridian Welcomes Delegation of Chinese Financial Regulators for Program Sponsored by Visa Corporation</i> The LEAD - Meridian International Center	July 2013 Washington, DC
<i>The Brazilians Are Here!</i> The LEAD - Meridian International Center	October 2013 Washington, DC
<i>23 mai – Ziua ‘națională’ a aromânilor?!</i> Gândacul de Colorado	May 2011 Denver, Colorado
<i>Hillary and Climate Change: Securing Al Gore’s Endorsement</i> Cadran Politic	November 2007 Bucharest, Romania
<i>Istro-românii văzuți de Bogdan Banu</i> BBC Romanian	October 2006 London, United Kingdom
<i>Universitățile Yale și New York, pe urmele istroromânilor</i> Ziua	November 2005 Bucharest, Romania
<i>Eveniment istoric: prima întâlnire a istroromânilor la New York</i> Romanian Global News	November 2005 Bucharest, Romania
<i>IstroRomanians in Croatia</i> http://www.istro-romanian.net	June 2005 Washington, DC
<i>Vlachs Should Ask for Their Right to Speak Their Language</i> Fărșărotul Newsletter	September 2002 Bridgeport, Connecticut
<i>Albania’s Aromanians. Re-emerging Into History</i> Kontakt mit Albanien	August 2000 Zürich, Switzerland
<i>Communism in Romania and the Romanian Revolution</i> Kennedy Center for International Studies, BYU	June 1997 Provo, Utah
<i>Romania: A Historical Perspective</i> Golden K Kiwanis International Society	October 1996 Provo, Utah

Media Appearances: TVR 1- Romanian National Television; RRI – Radio Romania International; Radio România Actualităţi; Radio RO – Chicago, USA.

TRAINING SEMINARS AND CONFERENCES

Speaker – First Annual Moldovan-American Convention <i>Moldova Foundation, Association of Moldovans in Chicago, Moldova Aid, Embassy of Moldova to the USA</i>	February 2014 Washington, DC
Speaker - International Exchanges - Integrate, Innovate, Impact <i>Global Ties U.S. National Meeting</i>	January 2014 Washington, DC
Speaker – International Visitors Leadership Program: Living our Story <i>National Council for International Visitors</i>	February 2013 Washington, DC
U.K. National Drug Treatment Conference <i>Exchange Supplies</i>	March 2009 London, UK
Human Rights Annual Conference - Middle East Agenda for Reform: Challenges and Opportunities <i>Johns Hopkins University, School of Advanced International Studies, The Protection Project</i>	April 2007 Washington, DC
Coping With Iran: Confrontation, Containment or Engagement? <i>RAND Corporation, Public Policy Forum</i>	March 2007 U.S. Capitol, Washington DC
Does Culture Still Matter? A Forum for Business, Education, and Training Professionals <i>American University, Intercultural Management Institute</i>	March 2007 Washington, DC
Iraq: Power Sharing and Its Discontents <i>American University, Center for Global Peace</i>	June 2004 Washington, DC
Congress of Macedo-Romanian Culture <i>Sacred Heart University</i>	July 2003 Fairfield, CT

SKILLS

Languages: Fluent in written and spoken English and Romanian; good command of written and spoken French and Aromanian (Vlach); basic knowledge of spoken Italian

Computer: Proficient with Microsoft Word, Microsoft Excel, Microsoft Works, Adobe Photoshop, Adobe Image Ready, Corel WordPerfect, Corel Presentation, Windows, HTML; Salesforce, and Google Suite

MEMBERSHIP

- **Association of Students from Romania (ASTROM)** - President
- **Friends of Romania (FOR)** - Member
- **Society Fârşărotul** - Member
- **Euronet Organization for International Professionals** – Member
- **Young Professionals in Foreign Policy** - Member