

2008

U.S. Fulbright Scholars



WELCOME

On behalf of the Fulbright Commission and community in Australia, I am pleased to present to you and welcome the 2008 U.S. Fulbright Scholars.

The mission of the Fulbright Program, to provide and support educational and cultural exchange between Australia and the USA, is delivered each year through the accomplishments and achievements of a diverse range of outstanding scholars and professionals.

The 2008 U.S. Fulbright Scholars are recognised at an Enrichment Program and Dinner in Canberra, as well as various state events around the country. We know you will assist them to make the most of their Fulbright experience in Australia.

Beyond the research and study they undertake, the long-term friendships and collaborations they will develop are the essence of the Fulbright Program and an underlying strength of U.S. – Australia relations.

Thank you for your support of the Fulbright Program and in advance for making the 2008 U.S. Fulbright Scholars welcome.



Mr Mark Darby
Executive Director
Australian-American Fulbright
Commission



2008 U.S. FULBRIGHT SCHOLARS

Postgraduate Scholars

Lynnette Averill*
Justin Brooks
Stesha Doku
Lauren Hallett*
Lauretta Lacko*
Laura Merwin*
William Odom*
Maggie O'Haire*
Joe Pollock*
Gabriel Rabin
William Rothwell*
Justin Schultz*
Abigail Sebalý*
Jessica Walker
Christina Zdenek*

Senior Scholars

Emmanuel Akporiaye
Steven Gorelick
Charles Helms*
Jennifer Keene
Andrew Storfer*

Fulbright ANU Distinguished Chair James Lengle*

* Scholars attending
2008 Enrichment Dinner
Old Parliament House
Canberra

2007 U.S. Postgraduate Scholars attending the 2008 Enrichment Dinner are:

Julia Back
Emily Morgan
Benjamin Fohner
Jenna Morency

Rachel Brummel
Shayle Kann
Joshua Coene

Fulbright Senior Scholar

PhD (Microbiology), University of New Mexico-Albuquerque

Host: Griffith University



Dr. Emmanuel Akporiaye is Chief of the Laboratory of Tumor Immunology and Therapeutics in the Franz Cancer Research Center at the Providence Portland Medical Center. Through his Fulbright Scholarship, he will travel to Griffith University in Australia to further his research into use of novel vitamin E analogs to treat breast cancer. Breast cancer disproportionately causes higher mortality rates in African-American women and Indigenous women of

Australia and this research could contribute to bridging this cancer health disparity. Dr. Akporiaye has contributed to a number of major publications, was awarded the Dr. Martin Luther King Distinguished Leadership Award in 2003, received the Dean's List for Excellence in Teaching in the Basic Sciences in 2000 and 2001, and the Vernon and Virginia Furrow Award for Excellence in Basic Science Teaching for Medical Students in 2007 at the University of Arizona.

Fulbright Postgraduate Scholarship

B.S. (Psychology), Westminster College

Host: University of Melbourne



Lynnette Averill is currently a PhD student at the University of Utah and will carry out her Fulbright research with the Australian Centre for Posttraumatic Mental Health at the University of Melbourne in Victoria. Lynnette's research, *Posttraumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and Alcohol Use in Australian Military Veterans*, will examine the change and relationship between PTSD and alcohol use in Australian military veterans following treatment. Lynnette is a graduate

of Westminster College with a Bachelor of Science in Psychology and Sociology and recently completed requirements for a Masters of Science. She has been recognised for academic performance by a number of awards, including a Steffensen Cannon Scholarship in 2006/07 and 2007/08, an Outstanding Student Humanitarian Award in 2005 and the Founder's Day Scholar in 2008.

Fulbright Postgraduate Scholarship

B.A. (History), College of the Holy Cross

Host: University of Melbourne



Through his Fulbright, Justin Brooks will undertake research in history at The Australian Centre at the University of Melbourne. Justin's research explores the politics of race and identity among Indigenous Australian youth in urban centres, focusing on 'Black transnationalism', where aspects of Black American and Afro-Caribbean culture have infiltrated this indigenous segment of the population. Justin's research seeks to place this development within

a broader historical discourse of empire and collective identity among aboriginal peoples. Justin's academic performance to date has been recognised through the College Honors & History Honors Programs; the Hall Family Foundation National Scholarship and the Charles A. Dana Scholarship, the most prestigious academic scholarship at College of Holy Cross. He has also spent a year abroad at Oxford University.

Fulbright Postgraduate Scholar

B.S. (Engineering), Duke University

Host: University of New South Wales



During her Fulbright Scholarship, Stesha Doku will undertake research at the University of New South Wales in Sydney. Her project will focus on identifying and examining spatially the relationships between ethnic background, economic status, disease and geographic location for immigrant and Indigenous populations of New South Wales. Using Geographic Information System allows for analysis of health related concerns as correlated to location, instead

of typical tables, graphs and charts and offers a way to understand where disease has its greatest impact, thus providing a basis for focusing improved healthcare or policy making. When Stesha returns from her Fulbright in Australia she will complete her Doctor of Medicine (M.D.) degree at Stanford University School of Medicine.

Fulbright Senior Scholar

PhD (Hydrology), M.S. (Hydrology), Stanford University; B.A. (Environmental Sciences), New College

Host: CSIRO



Dr Steven Gorelick is Professor of the Department of Environmental Earth System Science at Stanford University. Through his Fulbright, Dr Gorelick will undertake research at the Commonwealth Scientific & Industrial Research Organisation's (CSIRO) Land and Water division in Western Australia. Dr Gorelick's project will involve analysis of field data and development of groundwater simulation models to explore strategies that potentially mitigate

damage and promote sustainable water use. Dr Gorelick's professional accomplishments include being awarded the Cyrus F. Tolman Professorship of Earth Sciences at Stanford University (2005); a Fellow of the John Simon Guggenheim Foundation (2005); the M. King Hubbert Award, National Groundwater Association (2004); the O.E. Meinzer Award, Geological Society of America (1994); and a Fellow with the American Geophysical Union (1990).

Fulbright Postgraduate Scholarship

B.S. (Biological Science), Yale University

Host: Murdoch University



During her Fulbright Lauren will undertake ecological research at Murdoch University to develop goals and methods for the restoration of ecosystems degraded by human disturbance. She will also investigate the impact of climate change on this process. Lauren has previously combined a commitment to social awareness of climate change and effective means of communication about climate change to American audiences through the Yale Center for Environmental Law

and Policy. During her studies she has won a National Science Foundation (NSF) grant; Blanning Memorial Fellowship; Yale Richter Fellowship; and the Yale Environmental Studies Fellowship. She is also a debater, having competed at National and World championships and been an executive board member of the Yale Debate Association.

Fulbright Senior Scholar

PhD (American History), Carnegie Mellon University; M.A. (History), George Washington University

Host: University of New South Wales



Dr Jennifer Keene is a Professor in History at Chapman University in Orange, California. During her Fulbright, Jennifer will undertake research at the Australian Defence Force Academy (University of New South Wales), the National Museum of Australia, and the Australian War Memorial. This work aims to fill a gap in studies comparing Australia's World War I experience to other nations, including a focus on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander soldiers' experiences. Dr Keene is a history

graduate from George Washington University and Carnegie Mellon University. She has published four books and many journal articles and essays on war history.

Fulbright Senior Scholar

PhD (Microbiology), MD (Medical Sciences), University of Rochester

Host: University of Sydney



Dr Charles Helms is a Professor in the Carver College of Medicine at the University of Iowa and Medical Director of Clinical Quality, Safety and Performance Improvement at the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics. Through his Fulbright Senior Scholarship Dr Helms will undertake research at the University of Sydney to assess the impact of the policy of mandatory health care workers' vaccination recently implemented

in New South Wales. Dr Helms will examine the process of implementation and early impact of the policy by interviewing involved policy makers and stakeholders and reviewing available public data. Dr Helms is a graduate of the University of Rochester and is a Fellow of the American College of Physicians and Fellow of the Infectious Diseases Society of America.

2008 Fulbright Postgraduate Scholarship

B.S. (Animal Sciences and Chemistry),
University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign

Host: University of Sydney, Westmead Institute
for Cancer Research



During her Fulbright, Laretta Lacko will work at the Westmead Institute for Cancer Research, University of Sydney, investigating how progesterone acts and potentially increases the risk of breast cancer. Laretta will specifically look at the consequences of alterations in the level of expression of two progesterone receptors in normal breast cells that mimic changes known to occur in breast cancer. Laretta recently completed

a Bachelor of Science at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign majoring in Animal Sciences and Chemistry. She is a member of the Executive Council and scholarship committee of the Phi Sigma Pi Honors Fraternity. She has undertaken study abroad with research projects and internships in South Africa, Taiwan and Denmark.

Fulbright ANU Distinguished Chair in American Political Science

PhD (Political Science), University of California,
Berkeley

Host: The Australian National University



Dr James Lengle, an Associate Professor in the Department of Government at Georgetown University, is the 2008-09 Fulbright Australian National University Distinguished Chair in American Political Science. James, a noted U.S. political commentator, will join the ANU in Canberra for five months, from August to December 2008. Consequently, he will be in residence from the start of the 2008 general election campaign for President until after the final analyses on the election are filed and the transition from the old

administration to the new one begins. James's research will focus on the effects of economic conditions on U.S. presidential elections. James's top professional accomplishments include being President of the National Capitol Area Political Science Association (1989-1990); winning the Jack Walker Award (1997) presented by the Political Parties Section of the American Political Science Association; and being Georgetown University's first recipient of the Executive Vice-President's 'Excellence in Teaching Award'.

Fulbright Postgraduate Scholar

B.S. (Biology), Pepperdine University

Host: Curtin University



Laura Merwin has completed a Bachelor of Science, majoring in Biology, at Pepperdine University in California. Laura will use her Fulbright to study plants in drought and fire-prone Mediterranean ecosystems that have evolved unique life history types to ensure survival in harsh conditions. Her work will use microsatellite DNA analysis to explore the relationship between genetic variation—both within and between populations—and life history type in south-

western Australia. Studies such as these are necessary to create viable conservation policies in the face of climate change and habitat fragmentation. Laura will conduct her research under Professor Byron Lamont at Curtin University and at Kings Park and Botanic Gardens in Perth. Laura is following in the footsteps of her father, who was a Fulbright Postgraduate Scholar to the United Kingdom in 1978.

Fulbright Postgraduate Scholar

M.S. (Human-Computer Interaction / Design)
B.S. (Informatics), B.A. (Folklore), Indiana
University, Bloomington

Host: Griffith University



William Odom recently completed a Masters degree in Human-Computer Interaction / Design in the School of Informatics at Indiana University. Through his Fulbright, William will undertake research with Griffith University's Queensland College of Art (QCA). He will investigate the role that digital interactive and informational tools can play in linking urban farming practices and community development—specifically within the greater Brisbane community. Urban farming is the practice of integrating low-energy food

production techniques within city boundaries to increase the amount of fresh food available to local citizens. William has published and presented research at the intersection of design and sustainability at various international venues. Upon completing his Fulbright, William will return to the United States to begin his doctoral studies at Carnegie Mellon University.

MAGGIE O'HAIRE

Fulbright Postgraduate Scholar

B.A. (Psychology), Vassar College

Host: University of Queensland



Maggie O'Haire will use her Fulbright to study the effects of animal-assisted therapy on adolescents with autism spectrum disorder in Australia, at the Centre for Companion Animal Health (CCAH) at the University of Queensland. She will examine the hypothesis that the presence of a live companion animal in the life of an adolescent diagnosed with ASD will improve their empathy, emotional expression, communication and bonding.

Maggie has previously been recognised for her academic performance with a number of positions, including: Research Assistant for the Psychology Department at Vassar College (2006-2008); Research Fellow for the Undergraduate Research Summer Institute (2007); and Research Intern for the Clinical Department at Green Chimneys, which is recognized as a world-leader in animal-assisted therapy (2007-2008).

JOE POLLOCK

Fulbright Postgraduate Scholar

B.S. (Biology), University of Kentucky

Host: Australian Institute of Marine Science/ James Cook University



Through his Fulbright, Joe will work with the Australian Institute of Marine Science and James Cook University to develop diagnostic tools for the early detection of coral disease. Specifically, he will seek to develop a molecular-based technique to detect and quantify specific pathogens associated with diseased corals on the Great Barrier Reef and throughout the Indo-Pacific. Upon his return to the U.S., Joe plans to complete his Master's degree. Joe has conducted research at the

Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute in Panama, the Hawaii Institute of Marine Science, and Florida's Mote Marine Laboratory. He has also been recognised for his academic and civic accomplishments with the Kenneth Freedman Award for Social Action in 2004, a Presidential Fellowship in 2007 and a Fellowship in Applied Marine Genomics in 2007.

WILLIAM ROTHWELL

Fulbright Postgraduate Scholar

B.S. Biology, Wake Forest University

Host: University of Melbourne



William Rothwell will carry out his Fulbright research at the University of Melbourne in the laboratory of Nobel Laureate Peter C. Doherty, evaluating the T cell response to the influenza virus. His work will contribute to a greater understanding of the course of influenza infection and may have functional implications in the development of better flu vaccines. After completion of his Fulbright, William will pursue a doctorate in the immunology of infectious diseases. He aims for his research

of awards for his academic achievements, including the Chancellor's Prize (2006), Puryear Fellowship (2004) and the University Fellowship (2004).

GABRIEL RABIN

Fulbright U.S. Alumni Postgraduate Scholar

B.A. (Maths/Creative Writing), Columbia College of Columbia University

Host: The Australian National University



During his Fulbright, Gabriel Rabin will undertake research in philosophy at the Australian National University's Centre for Consciousness. His project will examine the relationship between what is conceivable and what is possible and will also explore the repercussions for the study of consciousness. Gabriel is a current PhD student in Philosophy at UCLA and graduate of Columbia College of Columbia University. He is the recipient of a number

JUSTIN SCHULTZ

Fulbright Postgraduate Scholar

B.S. (Physics), Juniata College

Host: The Australian National University



Through his Fulbright Justin Schultz will travel to the Australian National University where he proposes to build a high-finesse cavity capable of detecting the reduced quantum noise on a squeezed atom laser. This work has possible applications in the areas of improved navigation for submarines and in space, and the development of more sensitive instruments for

minerals exploration. Justin's academic performance has been recognised with an NIST Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship; a Research Fellowship with Juniata College Physics Department in the summer of 2006; Goldwater Scholarship Honorable Mention; and St. Andrew's Society Scholarship.

ABIGAIL SEBALY

Fulbright Postgraduate Scholar

B.F.A. (Dance), B.A. (English), University of Michigan, Ann Arbor

Host: Victorian College of the Arts / Melbourne International Arts Festival



Abigail Sebaly will engage in an advanced study of choreography at the Victorian College of the Arts' School of Dance and Centre for Ideas. She will also focus on the practice of arts curation through a professional mentorship at the Melbourne International Arts Festival with Artistic Director Kristy Edmunds. Prior to receiving her Fulbright, Abigail was the Director of Special Projects for the Merce Cunningham Dance Company.

She is an accomplished performer and choreographer, with performances at the Merce Cunningham Studio (2008 and 2006), the DUMBO Dance Festival (2005-06), and the Edinburgh Fringe Festival (2003). She received the University of Michigan School of Music Earl V. Moore Award in 2003 and was a James B. Angell Scholar for eight terms (1999-2003).

JESSICA WALKER

Fulbright Postgraduate Scholar

B.A. (Art History), University of Virginia; M.F.A. San Francisco State University

Host: Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology (RMIT)



Jessica will use her Fulbright to conduct research throughout Australia, interacting with and documenting people who share her name—Jessica Walker. The objective is to produce documentary video and other visually-based work that constructs a mediated portrait of Australian Jessica Walkers. Her goal is to gain awareness of Australian society through cultural exchanges with Jessica Walkers and to further explore constructions of digital self-identity. A graduate from the

University of Virginia, Jessica has been recognised for her academic achievement with the Leo D. Stillwell Award, San Francisco State University (2007); the Murphy Fellowship in the Fine Arts, The San Francisco Foundation (2006); and the Christine Tamblin Memorial Scholarship, SFSU (2006). She was published in *Hybrid Culture: Mix Art* in 2007, and had a solo exhibition at Stanford University's Clayman Institute in 2006.

DR ANDREW STORFER

Fulbright Senior Scholar

PhD (Biological Sciences), University of Kentucky; B.S. (Biological Sciences), Binghamton University

Host: James Cook University, University of Tasmania



Dr Andrew Storfer is Associate Professor in the School of Biological Sciences at Washington State University. He will use his Fulbright to conduct a study at James Cook University of the population genetic dynamics of amphibians that have declined due to an emerging infectious disease. He will also work at the University of Tasmania to predict the spread of Tasmanian devil facial tumour disease. He conducted his postdoctoral work at Arizona State

University under the prestigious Maytag Postdoctoral Fellowship (1997-1999). Since then, he has gone on to author more than 40 peer-reviewed scientific publications. His lab currently focuses on conservation and landscape genetics of amphibians, as well as the evolutionary ecology of emerging diseases.

Fulbright Postgraduate Scholar

B.S. (Biology), University of California, Irvine

Host: The Australian National University



During her Fulbright, Christina Zdenek will undertake a Master's degree in Environmental Studies at The Australian National University in Canberra. Christina will conduct a population viability analysis on the Green Python to model its chance of survival over long time periods under a range of 'real-world' scenarios of harvest rates and other human impacts. Christina will use computer based simulation software to determine the sustainable rate of harvest for the Green Python according to its life history stage, distribution, dispersal, and additional human impacts. Christina's academic performance has been recognised

with the Kearney Foundation of Soil Sciences Undergraduate Fellowship, UCI in 2007. She has also received a number of sporting awards including the 2007 Athletic Director's Achievement Award; Big Blue Varsity Award for Utah State University athletics in 2005; and UCI Women's Basketball full scholarship.

FULBRIGHT SPONSORS

The Australian and United States governments provide the core funding for the Australian Fulbright Program, which is complemented by the generous support of a select group of companies, organisations and government agencies. Such partnerships support more scholarships and also develop a wider Fulbright network committed to excellence and international exchange.

The Fulbright scholarship program for Americans to Australia is now complemented by three unique sponsored scholarships.

The Fulbright Australian National University (ANU) Distinguished Chair in American Political Science was established in 2006 with the support of The Australian National University (ANU). It annually brings a noted U.S. Scholar in political science to Australia to undertake research, build collaborative links and share their knowledge through a range of speaking events around Australia.

The Fulbright U.S. Alumni Scholarship and its associated Fund were established in 2005, supported by donations from U.S. Alumni. The scholarship is awarded annually to the highest ranked U.S. Fulbright Postgraduate. Alumni continue to

contribute to the fund as a positive way of 'giving back' to the Fulbright Program and ensuring more young Americans have the opportunity to come to Australia as Fulbright Scholars.

The Fulbright CSIRO Postgraduate Scholarship was established in 2008, with the first scholarship to commence in 2009. The scholarship will provide the opportunity for an American citizen to undertake 8-12 months postgraduate research with Australia's leading and largest science research organisation, CSIRO (Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation), working with one of the CSIRO National Research Flagships.



Australian Government



The Fulbright Commission thanks the Australian universities for their support in hosting U.S. Fulbright Scholars.





The Australian-American Fulbright Commission

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