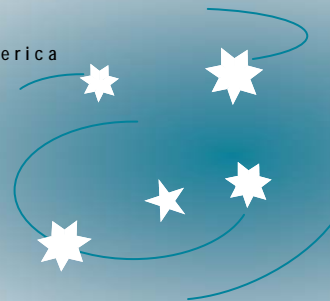


The Fulbrighter Australia

Volume 17 Number 1, March 2004



The power and importance of the Fulbright Fellowship

The third annual Enrichment Seminar, held in Canberra from 19-20 February, brought together 18 U.S. Fulbrighters currently in Australia. "The Seminar exceeded my expectations by clarifying the power and importance of the Fulbright Fellowship and augmenting a sense of potential for growth, links and opportunities based on fellowship", stated U.S. Scholar, Dr David Schlosberg.

The Enrichment Seminar was established in 2001 to introduce U.S. Fulbrighters to Australian academic, government and business representatives; meet with Fulbright Commission Board Members and staff; learn the history of the Program; get to know Canberra as Australia's national capital and develop a network amongst themselves.

U.S. Ambassador, J. Thomas Schieffer hosted a reception for the Fulbrighters where he congratulated them on their award and presented them with a Fulbright Pin. National President of the Australian (Fulbright) Alumni Association, Mr Greg Hunt, welcomed the group to Australia and also to Parliament House. Greg explained the Australian Parliamentary process and question time. That evening, the ACT Fulbright Alumni Chapter hosted the Fulbrighters to a dinner with local alumni and Commission Board members and staff.

U.S. Senior Scholar, Dr Scott Carroll writes of the seminar – "One week on, though back deep in the realm of my research, I am still reverberating with the feelings of goodwill, camaraderie, connection, inspiration, and responsibility that served as the subtext to the U.S. Enrichment Seminar in Canberra." (continued page 3)



U.S. Ambassador, J. Thomas Schieffer with the 2003 U.S. Fulbright Scholars at the U.S. Embassy in Canberra.

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Update from the
Executive
Director

Mark Darby

During the past few months, the focus of the Fulbright Commission has been on the selection of Australian and U.S. Fulbright Award recipients for 2004. My thanks to the State and National Selection Committees who, once again, reviewed many excellent applications, interviewed candidates and deliberated at length over the difficult, final decisions.

The quality of applicants remains very high, with students and scholars demonstrating not just academic excellence, but a high level of performance and commitment to their professional field. A list of the 2004 Australian and U.S. Fulbright Award recipients will be printed in the June edition of *The Fulbrighter*.

We are excited to invite you all to the 2004 Fulbright National Awards Dinner at The University of Sydney on Thursday, 20 May.

This will be the first year that the Awards Dinner has been held in Sydney and we look forward to networking with a wider group of alumni and Australian and U.S. business, government and community representatives. The Dinner will honour this year's talented group of Australian Fulbright Scholars and Guest Speaker will be Mr Ziggy Switkowski, CEO of Telstra.

Thank you: On behalf of the Commission, our thanks to departing Board members Mr Chris Bennett, DFAT, and Professor Ashley Goldsworthy, who has also Chaired the Fulbright Advisory Board for the past three years. We welcome new Board members Professor Denise Bradley, Vice-Chancellor, The University of South Australia and Mr Richard Maude, Assistant Secretary of the America's Branch, DFAT.

2004 Events and Occasions...

U.S. Fulbright Enrichment Seminar, Canberra: It was wonderful to gather the 2003 / 2004 U.S. Fulbrighters to Australia for the fourth annual Enrichment Seminar. On behalf of the Fulbrighters and the Commission, my thanks to the office staff for their hard work in making this event such a success.

Fulbright Symposium: The 2004 Fulbright Symposium "*Civil-Military Cooperation and the War on Terror*", will be held from **5-7 July in Brisbane and is hosted by The University of Queensland**. Guest speakers will include General Peter Cosgrove, Head of the Defence Force; Mick Keelty, Australian Federal Police Commissioner; Major General Michael G. Smith AO (retired), Director of Austcare; Graham Tupper, Executive Director of the Australian Council for Overseas Aid and Thomas Bruneau, Director of the Center for Civil-Military Relations, U.S. Navy Postgraduate College, California.

For further information and registration details go to: www.polsis.uq.edu.au/fulbright/

Applications are now being called for the 2005 Fulbright Symposium

The Fulbright Commission annually provides a grant of \$A20,000 to support an Australian institution to host a conference on a topic of bi-national relevance to Australia and the United States.

Further information and application forms are available at

www.fulbright.com.au

Applications close on 30 July 2004.

...cont. from page 1.

“So many of us, student and professional scholars alike, grow wearily accustomed to perennial cycles of competition for opportunity and advancement. We are blessed with many sources of support, but it's easy in our urgency to forget that even the most generous grant is a contract, and that those who support us initiate a relationship with us.

We packed a great deal into our two days. All of the great elements of the Seminar—visiting the U.S. Embassy with its oak tree planted by Eleanor Roosevelt; Question Time at Parliament with its battling wags gloriously anachronistic in style but ahead of their time in democracy; the spectacular dinner hosted by the ACT Fulbright alumni—served at least a triple purpose.

The first was to give us connection and continuity with Fulbright Scholars, before and after, as a global community. The second, to encourage us to serve education and the public interest as recognised scholars. The third, to weave our sensibilities and aspirations a bit more firmly into the tapestry of Australia, and to give us some certain threads to knit back into the cloth of American culture.

The most enduring emotional memory of the Seminar is 'fun'. I met an engineering student writing and testing new theorems for predicting coral reef thermal dynamics as a conservation tool in the face of global climate change. Another engineer analyzing whale song. Scholars literally living the art and culture of aboriginal communities, using art to connect to the lives of the cognitively challenged, and employing architecture to bring the world alive for children. Students of sustainability, of marsupial maternity, insects at the water's surface, continents at the water's edge, and molecules at the boundary of physics and chemistry. I have never more clearly perceived the meaning of interdisciplinary work, and seen such positivism flow from those whose goals would not be so easily boxed and wrapped.

Since the seminar, I've had a visit here in Brisbane from a Sydney-based Fulbrighter, and have connected with another I met at the seminar who may guide me on some questions genuinely critical to my upcoming research. These threads are beyond what I anticipated going into the Enrichment Seminar, but now that I understand personally why it was held. My revised prediction is that I will discover several more reasons, and who knows where they will lead. Thanks to the Australian–American Fulbright Commission for the vision that made this possible, and the dedication and energy to bring such an opportunity to this year's scholars”.



2003 U.S Fulbright Scholars meeting with Mr Greg Hunt, at Parliament House.

Fulbright in the Eye of the Beholder

2003 Australian Fulbright Professional Scholar
Dr Angelo Tsirbas writes:

“I am currently conducting research at the department of ophthalmology at Columbia University in New York. It has been a fantastic experience and the work is progressing very well. I have been lucky enough to see New York in the snow and at Christmas time.

My research involves new innovative endoscopic surgical applications to human eye and orbital disease and the clinic has a catchment population of around 20 million people, the same as my home continent!

I have been a guest lecturer at the New York Ophthalmological Society, Manhattan Ophthalmological society and the Columbia University alumni. The ability to work and share knowledge with my north American colleagues has been inspirational.

My Fulbright Award has allowed the exchange of medical knowledge and techniques that I will put to use on my return to Australia. It is uncommon for medical professionals to be given the opportunity to work with their colleagues overseas and the experience will allow me to expand medical service provision and treatment on my return”.



Dr Angelo Tsirbas

“My Fulbright initiated a new collaboration between the research teams at the University of California, Irvine and Monash University, as my project intertwined the chemistry researched in both laboratories”.

Rita Harika
2001 Fulbright
BHP Billiton
Postgraduate Scholar

The beginning of my career..

As part of my PhD research in lanthanide chemistry, I applied for a Fulbright Scholarship to work for a year in Professor William Evans' research team at the University of California, Irvine. Professor Evans, and my supervisor at Monash University Professor Glen Deacon, are both leading world experts in the field, and therefore it made sense to begin a joint project between the two research teams.

In 2001, I was ecstatic to learn that I had received the Fulbright BHP-Billiton Award in Science and Engineering. This Award suited my area of specialisation as BHP Billiton have an interest in metal technology and finding commercial uses for metals they mine and leach. Lanthanides constitute one of the last frontiers in the periodic table. These historically underdeveloped metals offer exciting opportunities for the future and my project focused on exploring how their unique physical properties can be developed in a wide range of areas. These include the development of lanthanide anti-corrosion agents, understanding the basic concepts of reaction chemistry, inorganic and organometallic chemistry, and the materials' properties.

After working for all of 2002 at the University of California, Irvine, I returned home to Melbourne to complete my laboratory work and write my thesis. BHP-Billiton then offered me a job at the Newcastle Technology Centre and I began working there in early November 2003. This fantastic career opportunity focuses on understanding the chemistry that occurs during metal leaching from ore in order to optimise metal extraction. My research experience in the U.S., combined with my background in chemistry, overlaps with the hydrometallurgical work that I am currently involved in and I am enjoying the beginning of my career immensely.



U.S. Fulbright Postgraduate Award Winner Timothy Ringsmuth with U.S. Cultural Affairs Officer, Rob Hughes at Timothy's graduation exhibition at the Canberra School of Art.

Very Glassy Chic

A Bachelor of Fine Arts graduate in photography and glass, U.S. Fulbrighter Timothy Ringsmuth was awarded a Fulbright Scholarship to Australia in 2002 to undertake further study at the Canberra School of Art, (ANU). On 18 March, a number of Timothy's exquisite glass works were displayed at her graduation exhibition.

Timothy explains, “I consider myself to be both a glass artist and photographer. I use glass most commonly in a sort of opposition to photography. When I return to the U.S. I will resume teaching with a much greater understanding of how to help students find their own artistic voices within the glass arts. Through the process of making this body of work, I found myself returning time and time again to structures and formal representations of science as an artistic device. Like a spectre from the past, empirical stratagem haunted my endeavours. Although this stuck me as odd at the time, in retrospect it seems obvious. The sciences and the arts

work along parallel lines, arriving at an hypothesis and then testing them for validity. One tests for emotional validity and the other for rational. This body of work was intended to blur and question these categories of science and art. To fold the two areas into each other. Teasing the mythology out of our reality through a scientific process, and getting to the bottom of the question—how do images function?



The Value of Onsite Learning...

Clare Corbould spent six weeks at New York University attending a Fulbright American Studies Institute. An interdisciplinary course investigating the reconciliation of diversity with national unity in the United States, the program involved panel discussions, lectures and field trips in New York City, New England, New Mexico and Washington DC.

The course at New York University has immensely broadened my understanding of the history of the United States. As a specialist in African-American history and culture in the twentieth century, this was a great opportunity for me to learn more about the cultures and politics of diversity, in both the past and today.

Participating in the institute with educators from 17 different countries, exposed me to a myriad of ideas about the U.S. and various approaches to teaching American Studies. We talked pretty well constantly for six weeks and learnt a great deal from each other about the countries in which we live. The NYU course, combined visits to a variety of historical sites with the more conventional classroom learning units. The field trips created a terrific chance to see evidence of the Anglo-Puritan and Spanish-Catholic origins of the United States. Our travels, like the day-trips we took around New York, also exposed me to the value of

“on-site learning.”

One of the most valuable aspects of the curriculum was the chance to learn something of different disciplinary approaches to U.S. Studies. Although the course included many lectures by historians, we also heard from sociologists, philosophers, architects, economists, political scientists and communications experts. Their various methodological approaches meant that we addressed questions about the United States which are beyond the usual scope of historians. In addition I met union leaders, journalists, social workers, lobbyists, politicians and university administrators.

Finally, and perhaps most importantly, my interaction with the other 17 participants enabled me to learn a huge amount about the way in which U.S. Studies are taught in other countries. I will definitely keep in touch with the people I met and continue to learn from my experiences..



“The Fulbright program has given me an unparalleled opportunity to interact with the leading researchers in my field. I believe this two-way exchange of ideas is the embodiment of the Fulbright mission, and I am honoured to be part of it.”

*Chris Ryan
2003 Fulbright
Clough Postgraduate
Scholar*



Fulbright American Studies Institute participants

Nationalism and Ethnic Conflict

Australian academic Dr David Brown, from the School of Politics and International Studies at Murdoch University was selected as a 2003-2004 Fulbright New Century Scholar. Over the past year he joined a select group of U.S. and international researchers to focus on the global issue of *“Addressing Sectarian, Ethnic and Cultural Conflict within and Across National Borders”*.

David writes:

The Fulbright New Century Scholar Program involves not just a visit to an American university for personal research purposes, but also participation in a group project focusing on a global issue. Our challenge was to seek a better understanding of, and potential actions for, ‘Addressing sectarian, ethnic and cultural conflict within and across national borders’. We began in February with a group meeting at the Rockefeller Pocantico Conference Center in New York, where the 30 Fulbright New Century Scholars (10 from the USA, 20 from various other parts of the world) met for the first time under the leadership of Professor Ed Tiryakian, a renowned scholar on ethnicity.

Locked together for a week in a snowbound retreat we attempted to weld our 30 individual research projects into one group project which, it was intimated, would hopefully be found useful in dealing with globalised ethnic conflict. While the wide variety of the interests, approaches, methods and goals of the 30 researchers which made this and subsequent meetings exhilarating, the task of trying to develop a well focused group project proved difficult. We did, however, manage to agree at the first meeting on the mutual aim of promoting world peace! We met again in Belfast in July with the intention of pinning down our aims more tightly. Belfast was chosen as the venue because we could combine academic retreat with being in the thick of continued ethnic conflict.

In between New York and Belfast, I spent three productive and happy months as a Fellow at the Department of Political Science in the University of Madison-Wisconsin, where my wife had also arranged a Fellowship at the Department of Education. I used this time to pursue my research into the relationships between ethnic conflict and civic nationalism. I also exposed this research to critical scrutiny from the group of eminent researchers which Professor Crawford Young had collected at Madison, in his ‘Cultural Pluralism’ research circle. When a first group meeting was called in the evening at the convener’s home, I expected an informal chat over drinks. Instead there commenced a three-hour serious grilling by academics who had all read my paper carefully beforehand and had prepared their responses. They were warm and friendly and deeply committed to rigorous debate. Disagreement was encouraged and respected. It was very impressive and stimulating. I came away exhausted.

After Madison came the meeting of the NCS group in Belfast, where we tried to turn the goal of world peace into concrete plans for publications and research collaborations. Then in November, we met for the final time in Washington, first at Airlie House in Virginia to compare research notes and to finalise our collaborations, and then to give a presentation at a plenary session hosted by the United States Institute of Peace. Did we succeed in wowing the Washington audience with the breadth of our global knowledge on the causes, nature and solutions to ethnic conflict? I think so, but I do wish we hadn’t committed ourselves to delivering world peace.

The NCS program gave me the chance to discuss my ideas with some fascinating people who were approaching my subject from totally different perspectives. For example, in the sub-group which I became most involved in, and which continues to work together, Balaz was examining the ethnic identities of Auschwitz concentration camp guards, Tria was studying how Falun Gong members in Hong Kong and China used the internet, and Hamadou was studying Casamance separatism in Senegal. It is out of such interactions that ideas begin to flow.

The research has already generated several articles and book chapters, some in collaboration with other NCS participants. These publications constitute stages towards an authored book on ethnic and civic nationalisms in Southeast Asia. My thanks to Fulbright and the New Century Scholar Program.



“They were warm and friendly and deeply committed to rigorous debate. Disagreement was encouraged and respected”.

*Dr David Brown
2003 Fulbright New
Century Scholar*

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Dr Alby Jones (1912—2003)

The late Dr Albert Walter Jones was one of South Australia's first Fulbright Scholars (1956) and, through over 50 years commitment to education, was considered South Australia's leading school educator. Dr Jones passed away in June 2003.

Alby Jones, born in South Australia in 1912, took his degrees in Science and Arts at the University of Adelaide (1932 & 1937), followed by a Diploma in Secondary Education in 1939. In 1944 he was awarded a Master of Arts for his research in the field of educational measurement.

Alby's professional career began in 1934 as a teacher of mathematics and science at high schools throughout South Australia, as well as teaching mathematics at the University of Adelaide and at what is now the University of South Australia. In 1949 he was appointed an Inspector of Schools, in 1954 Inspector of Secondary Schools and in 1959 foundation Superintendent of Recruitment and Training, with responsibility for teacher education. In 1956 Alby won a Fulbright Educational Development Award to undertake research at Ohio State University. From 1967 to 1970 he was Deputy Director General of Education, becoming Director General in 1970.

Following his retirement from the Department of Education in 1977, Alby launched into a range of professional endeavours, one of which was the research which culminated in a Doctorate of Philosophy from the University of New England in 1986.

Many honours have been bestowed on Alby Jones, who was an Officer of the Order of Australia. He was a founding member and honorary Fellow of the Australian College of Educators and a Fellow or Member of several professional bodies. Three educational professional bodies have bestowed their highest award: the Medal of the Australian College of Educators, the Gold Medal of the Council for Educational Administration, and the ANZAAS Mackie Medal for Education.



6,000 Grasshopper Eggs...

... was the definition of a "hectic, but productive summer" for Fulbright Alumnus, Michael Kearney, who has recently taken up the role of Secretary of the Victorian Fulbright Alumni Chapter. Michael was a Fulbright Postgraduate in 2001 and undertook research at The University of Wisconsin, Madison and Lewis and Clark College in Oregon. His studies focused on the ecology and evolution of asexual reproduction and climatic adaptation in the native Australia gecko. A publication based on his research at Wisconsin during his Fulbright year has just been accepted into the journal *Ecology*.



Michael recently won a three year ARC grant and commenced a Postdoctoral Fellowship at the Centre for Environmental Stress and Adaptation Research (CESAR) at La Trobe University. The question of asexual geckos and grasshoppers arose when two 'normal' sexual species hybridized, and Michael is now trying to understand why there is such a strong link between hybridization and asexuality. He has collected animals from around Kalgoorlie and Broken Hill by shaking acacia bushes into a hoop bag in weather that ranged from torrential rain and floods to 48°C. With the grasshoppers, he will be hybridizing species in the laboratory to see if he can create 'synthetic' asexual grasshoppers and compare them to the naturally asexual species.

Our thanks to the following for their contributions to the W.G. Walker Fund in 2004

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To celebrate the 55th year of the Australian-American Fulbright Commission,
we invite all friends and alumni to join us in congratulating the
2004 Australian Fulbright Scholars .

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NATIONAL AWARDS
DINNER**

Thursday 20 May 2004
7pm for 7.30pm
MacLaurin Hall
The University of Sydney,
NSW

PO Box 9541 Deakin ACT 2600
Ph. (02) 6260 4461
melindahunt@fulbright.com.au

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