

the fulbrighter

A U S T R A L I A



The 2010 Fulbright Australian Scholars with Professor Glyn Davis, VC University of Melbourne (11th from left), Ambassador Jeffrey Bleich (13th from left), Dr Joe Hlubucek, Executive Director, Fulbright Commission (centre) and Mr Tom Pascarella, Chair, Fulbright Commission (13th from right). Presentation dinner photos: Timothy Burgess

Fulbright presents the 2010 Australian Scholars

Almost 300 people came to the National Gallery of Victoria for the Fulbright 60th Anniversary Presentation Dinner and the announcement of the twenty-five Fulbright Australian Scholars for 2010, on Thursday, 18 March 2010.

The Scholars will work in the U.S. on a range of interesting Fulbright projects, including a non-invasive imaging system to screen newborn babies for sight threatening conditions, renewable energy technology, addressing fear of failure for students, new ways to treat breast cancer, and improved security for portable electronic devices.

The event was co-hosted by Vice-Chancellor and President of The University of Melbourne, Professor Glyn Davis, and the recently arrived U.S. Ambassador, Jeffrey Bleich, a special guest and Honorary U.S. Co-Chair for the Australian-American Fulbright Commission, gave the keynote speech.

Professor Davis highlighted the significance of the Fulbright Program over its sixty years, and spoke about its value to The University of Melbourne and the impressive number of graduates who had been awarded Fulbright scholarships, and the large number of U.S. Fulbrighters who had come to the University.

Ambassador Bleich congratulated this year's Scholars and commented about the vision of Senator Fulbright in bringing people together to see the world in new ways.

"Today, 60 years later, we celebrate the wisdom of that vision – which has spawned 4600 scholars and produced our

great alliance," Ambassador Bleich said about the Australian-American program. He also presented the Scholars with their certificates, signed by himself and the Prime Minister of Australia, the Hon Kevin Rudd, as the two honorary Co-Chairs for the Commission.

Mr Tom Pascarella, Chair of the Fulbright Commission Board presented the Scholars with letters signed by the Prime Minister, and Dr Tony Worby, National President of the Australian Fulbright Alumni Association presented them with Fulbright pins.

American-born Fulbright Alumnus Dr Donna Coleman, an internationally recognised and awarded pianist, was the invited guest artist. She spoke about the significance of the

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Dr Donna Coleman performing at the dinner

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ED's Update

The past few months have been busy and productive for the Fulbright Commission.

Highlights have been the establishment of several new sponsored Scholarships, the arrangements for the Fulbright Presentation Dinner and announcement of the 2010 Fulbright Australian Scholars, and the Orientation Program for the Australian Scholars, and arrangements for celebrating the 60th Anniversary.

The Fulbright Australian Scholars were announced at the Presentation Dinner on 18 March 2010 at a gala evening at the spectacular National Gallery of Victoria.

The 25 scholars are a very impressive group with broad interests ranging from medicine, science, technology, law, and music, and I encourage you to review their profiles on our website.

We were very pleased to have the new U.S. Ambassador to Australia, Jeffrey Bleich, as a guest of honour at the event, along with our co-host for the evening, Professor Glyn Davis AC, Vice-Chancellor and Principal of The University of Melbourne.

Almost 300 people attended the dinner, including sponsors, senior university and federal and state government representatives, Scholars and their families, and Fulbright Alumni. The evening also included an accomplished piano recital by Dr Donna Coleman. Donna came to Australia as an American Fulbright Senior Scholar in 1992. In 1995 she joined the Victorian College of the Arts as Head of Keyboard. She is now Coordinator of Masters and PhD in the Faculty of the VCA and Music (Southbank), The University of Melbourne.

The Australian-American Fulbright Program is in the process of establishing several new exciting scholarships for both Australian and American scholars. In February the Fulbright Northern Territory Scholarship was launched to provide a special opportunity for residents of the Northern Territory for study or research in the U.S. as part of the Fulbright program.

I am also pleased to announce that the Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation (ANSTO) is to sponsor a

scholarship, for a Fulbright Professional or Senior Scholar for study or research in nuclear science and technology applications. There are more details about these new scholarships on pages 6 and 7.

Another new development is that we have selected Flinders University in Adelaide as host and co-sponsor for the Fulbright Distinguished Chair in American Political Science for five years from 2011.

Our events and celebrations to mark our 60th Anniversary Year are also continuing. The Fulbright event scheduled for the visit by the U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton was cancelled because she had to return to the U.S. before coming to Australia following the disastrous earthquake in Haiti.

One of the highlights for me at this time of the year is meeting many Scholars, Alumni and friends of Fulbright at the annual university presentations, and receptions and events in the capital cities generously co-hosted by universities and the U.S. Consul-Generals. This year we will sadly farewell Mrs Judith Fergin and Dr Ken Chern, the U.S. Consul-Generals in Sydney and Perth respectively. We will miss their valuable support and contributions but look forward to remaining in contact.

Joe Hlubucek
Executive Director



US Ambassador, Jeffrey Bleich, speaking at the dinner



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Fulbright experience which brought her to Australia, and then entertained and impressed the audience with two piano pieces selected for the evening: Lullaby, from Tribute to Foster by Percy Aldridge Grainger, and Le banjo, Grotesque Fantasie (esquisse américaine) by Louis Moreau Gottschalk.

Mr Pascarella also spoke about the impact of a Fulbright on the lives of Scholars in terms of new directions

and opportunities, and 2010 Fulbright Victoria Scholar, Dr Elgene Lim, responded eloquently on behalf of the Scholars:

"We represent a diverse group of individuals from various cultural and professional backgrounds, but are united in our gratitude at being given this lifetime opportunity, and humbled to join the ranks of the Fulbright community, many who are world leaders in their respective fields."

The photographs from the evening can be viewed online, contact commsmanager@fulbright.com.au for details.



Above:
Professor Stephan Schuster, Mrs Tutu,
Dr Vanessa Hayes and Archbishop Tutu.

Left:
Dr Hayes used genetic material from a
number of Bushmen from the Kalahari
Desert, as well as the Archbishop Desmond
Tutu as representative of Southern African
Bantu for the project.

Major genome breakthrough for Fulbright Scholar

Dr Vanessa Hayes, (2009 Australian Professional Scholar) recently co-lead a team that created the first complete human reference genome of indigenous persons.

Dr Hayes was on her Fulbright Scholarship at Pennsylvania State University in 2009 working on a project applying next generation genome sequencing techniques to examine human genomes, and prostate cancer genomes.

Her scholarship gave her the opportunity to also collaborate on the indigenous genome project with her U.S. host and co-leader, Professor Stephan C. Schuster.

The work ran as the cover story in *Nature* on 18 February 2010. It was also celebrated at an event in Namibia, involving the the Right Honourable Prime Minister Nahas Angula of Namibia with the special guests including Archbishop Desmond Tutu.

The discovery has significant implications for medical research and will help to develop new tools to fight diseases.

“This work will greatly assist medical efforts to combat complex common diseases, including cancer research. It means that we can assess disease risk and responses to drugs among different genetic groups,” Dr Hayes said.

Dr Vanessa Hayes is Group Leader of Cancer Genetics at the Children’s Cancer Institute Australia, University of New South Wales.

“It is truly exciting to see a spin-off of this magnitude from one of our Fulbright Scholars. It shows the power of collaboration and proves the benefits of programs such as the Fulbright program in giving Scholars the opportunity to cross-fertilise with others in their research areas overseas,” said the Fulbright Commission’s Executive Director, Dr Joe Hlubucek.

Queensland Fulbright Scholars meet their community

The annual Queensland reception for Queensland-based Fulbright Scholars and Alumni was hosted by the University of Queensland (UQ) this year at Customs House in Brisbane.

Professor Michael Keniger, Acting Vice-Chancellor, UQ, opened the event, briefly outlining the history and place of the Fulbright Program in U.S.- Australian relations, particularly in the QLD context, and introduced the Scholars.

As part of the 60th Anniversary celebrations, Fulbright pins were presented to earlier Fulbright Alumni whose scholarships took place before pins were issued. Two-time Fulbright Alumnus and former Fulbright Commission Board Chair, Professor Peter Coaldrake, Vice Chancellor of Queensland University of Technology, presented the pins to nine Fulbright Alumni, and Dr Hlubucek presented one to Professor Coaldrake.

2010 Fulbright Australian Scholars, Mr Craig Costello, Mr Mark Harris, Dr Hilary Hughes, Mr Steven Kenway, Dr Shevarl MacNamara and Mr Sam Nester all spoke briefly about their projects. Fulbright 2009 U.S. Scholars, Dr James Blackman and

Ms Elizabeth Webb also talked about their projects in Australia. Two Fulbright Alumni, Mr John Swinson, (1990 Aus Scholar) and Ms Eliza Matthews (2005 Aus Scholar) also spoke about their Fulbright experiences.



Dr Shevarl MacNamara, speaking at the reception.



Professor Peter Coaldrake presents a pin to Fulbright Alumnus, Professor Helen Ross



Fulbright U.S. Scholar Elizabeth Webb addresses the reception

Photos: Stewart Gould, University of QLD

2010 Fulbright Australian Scholars

SENIOR SCHOLARS



**Associate Professor
Graham Edgar**

Fulbright Tasmania Scholar

Marine Ecology. The University of Tasmania. Research on the effectiveness of marine protected areas as a tool for biodiversity conservation at the Centre for Applied Biodiversity Science, Conservation International in Arlington, Virginia.



Professor Carolyn Evans

Law. Melbourne Law School. Researching the role of consent in limiting religious freedom at Washington College of Law at American University and Emory University.



**Professor Yogesan
Kanagasingam**

Medical Informatics/Ophthalmology. The Australian e-Health Research Centre at the CSIRO. Research at Stanford University School of Medicine to develop and validate a new "non-invasive" imaging system for telemedicine-based screening of newborn babies for sight threatening conditions such as Retinopathy of Prematurity (ROP).



Professor Robert Park

Plant Pathology. The University of Sydney. Research on the genetic basis of resistance to the fungal disease stem rust in wheat, barley and oats at the Cereal Disease Laboratory, St Paul, USDA.

PROFESSIONAL SCHOLARS



Dr James Curran

Fulbright Professional Scholar in Australia-U.S. Alliance Studies sponsored by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

History. The University of Sydney. Researching on the history of Australian/American relations, 1969-1983, Georgetown University, Washington.



Mr Simon Gamble

Fulbright Tasmania Scholar

Natural Resource Management. Hydro Tasmania. Studying the integration of renewable energy technology in modern power systems, to support the development of a renewable energy power system and research facility for the Bass Strait Islands, with the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL).



Dr Mary Haines

Health Services. Sax Institute in NSW and the University of Sydney. Research on the effectiveness of health care reforms at the Veterans Health Administration, the UCLA School of Public Health and the RAND Corporation in Los Angeles.



Mr Mark Harris

Fulbright Professional Scholar in Vocational Education and Training (VET) sponsored by the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations

Human Resource Management. Queensland Department of Education and Training. Examining vocational education and training to help improve VET workforce development with the State University of New York in Oswego.

SCHOLAR-IN-RESIDENCE



A/Prof Steven Lapidge

Fulbright Professional Business/Industry (Coral Sea) Scholar

Zoology. Invasive Animals CRC, University of Canberra, furthering his research into using sodium nitrite, a food preservative, as a humane pesticide for feral pigs and other species, USDA National Wildlife Research Centre, Colorado.



Dr Hilary Hughes

Fulbright Scholar-in-Residence

Education. Queensland University of Technology. Developing an inclusive informed learning approach for student academic success in culturally diverse contexts at the University of Colorado in Denver.



Dr Elgene Lim

Fulbright Victoria Scholar

Oncology. The Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre and the Walter & Eliza Hall Institute. Research on novel ways to treat breast cancer, particularly sub-types resistant to conventional therapies at the Dana Faber Cancer Institute and Harvard University.



Dr Shevarl MacNamara

Mathematics. The University of Queensland. The Application of mathematical and computational principles to biology at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) Department of Mathematics.

POSTGRADUATE SCHOLARS



Ms Tammy Broom

Fulbright Indigenous Scholar

Human geography. Macquarie University. A review of Indigenous community economic development in the southwest US at the University of Arizona.



Dr James Chong

Fulbright NSW Scholar

Cardiology. Victor Chang Cardiac Research Institute. Investigating possible new therapies for heart failure using stem cells at the University of Washington, Seattle.



Ms Krista Clews De Castella

Psychology. Australian National University. Exploring the way fears and false beliefs in students lead to negative self-fulfilling prophecies and educational inequalities, host to be confirmed.



Mr Craig Costello

Fulbright Postgraduate Scholar in Technology and Communications sponsored by Telstra

Mathematics. Queensland University of Technology. Research into new techniques for security on computer and telecommunications devices at the University of California Irvine.



Ms Sarah Holland-Batt

Fulbright Postgraduate Alumni (WG Walker) Scholar

Poetry. Queensland University of Technology. A Master of Fine Arts in poetry, focusing on Dante's account of Paolo and Francesca in the Inferno.



Ms Elizabeth Jens

Fulbright Postgraduate Scholar in Science and Engineering, sponsored by BHP Billiton

Engineering and Science. LEK Consulting. A one-year Masters by coursework in aeronautical and astronautical engineering at Stanford University.



Dr Cameron Keating

Medicine. St Vincent's Hospital. Research on novel techniques for peripheral nerve repair at the Plastic Surgery Research Laboratory in Massachusetts General Hospital and Harvard Medical School.



Mr Steven Kenway

Fulbright Queensland Scholar

Natural Resource Management. University of Queensland and the Urban Water Security Research Alliance. Research on linkages between water use, energy and greenhouse gases at Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratories and the University of California Berkeley.



Ms Angela Langdon

Maths/Neuroscience. University of New South Wales. Developing a mathematical model of the brain that can give insight into brain function at the Centre for Neural Science, New York University.



Mr Matthew Lee

Fulbright Postgraduate Alumni (WG Walker) Scholar

Law. The South Australian Crown Solicitor's Office and the University of Adelaide Law School. American approaches to water law, natural resources regulation and international environmental law, host to be confirmed.



Ms Kathryn Napier

Fulbright Western Australia Scholar

Biomedical Sciences. Murdoch University. Research on the relationship between birds and mistletoes in Western Australia, at the University of Wyoming.



Mr Sam Nester

Music. The Western Australian Academy of the Performing Arts. A Master of Music, in Classical Trumpet, in the U.S.



Mr Lewis Tunstall

Fulbright South Australia Scholar

Physics. The University of Adelaide. Research aiming provide a solution to one of the outstanding problems within the Standard Model of particle physics at the University of California, Berkeley.

Flinders awarded prestigious Fulbright Distinguished Chair in American Political Science



The Australian-American Fulbright Commission has selected Flinders University, in Adelaide, South Australia, to host the prestigious Fulbright Distinguished Chair in American Political Science, following a national, competitive selection process. Flinders University, as a co-sponsor, will host the Chair for five years from 2011.

Through the Chair, distinguished US Scholars will be based at Flinders, to undertake collaborative research into key political issues affecting both countries, and also undertake a national lecture tour. This Distinguished Chair was established in 2005 by the Australian-American Fulbright Commission and The Australian National University, and ANU is the current host for 2005-2010.

Sustaining societies in the tropical world – Fulbright Symposium

Early bird registrations are now open for the 2010 Fulbright 60th Anniversary Symposium in Cairns in August.

To be hosted by James Cook University, the Symposium is expected to attract about 200 people from throughout Australia, New Zealand, the Pacific and the United States.

Dr Michael Birt, Executive Director of the Pacific Health Summit, and Dr Paul Zorner, CEO of Hawaii Bio Energy, are confirmed as keynote speakers, and Queensland's Chief Scientist Paul Andrews has agreed to facilitate one of the four themes for the Symposium.

Within the overall theme of "Sustaining Societies in the Tropical World" and how the US and Australia can tackle poverty and health issues in the tropics, the 60th Anniversary Fulbright Symposium will focus on four key areas:



- » Tropical Health and Medicine – solutions for under-served populations in tropical nations, tropical diseases, public health, health work-force development, disaster health and bio-security, philanthropic involvement
- » Environmental Sustainability – ecological and social impacts of climate change, renewable energy sources, sustainable agriculture, water quality and management, US Tropical Forestry Conservation Act
- » Economic and Political Development – sustainable industries and economies, human rights, social and political dimensions of poverty, legal systems, micro-credit, finance and banking
- » Strengthening Communities – sustainable industries for developing tropical nations, protecting Indigenous traditional knowledge, art and culture, urbanisation, tropical architecture, disaster management, foreign aid and food security.

The Symposium is being held at the Hilton Cairns on August 19 and 20. It will not have a traditional conference format, but rather be structured around several keynote presentations, by high profile experts, followed by facilitated discussion panels.

More information about the Fulbright 60th Anniversary Symposium is available and registrations can be made at: www.jcu.edu.au/fulbrightsymposium/

Fulbright Scholarship for the Northern Territory



Chief Executive of the Department of Education and Training, Mr Gary Barnes; Mr Zach Johnston, Regional Vice President, Blackboard Asia Pacific, U.S. Consul General Michael Thurston, a member of the Australian-American Fulbright Commission Board; and CDU Vice-Chancellor Professor Barney Glover at the launch.

The Australian-American Fulbright Commission is pleased to announce that a Fulbright Northern Territory Scholarship has been established to enable talented NT scholars, researchers, and professionals to study in the US for up to 12 months.

The Fulbright Northern Territory Scholarship was launched at a reception at Charles Darwin University (CDU) on 16 February 2010, hosted by the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Barney Glover. The special guests included US Consul-General Michael Thurston; Mr Zach Johnson, Regional Vice President,

Blackboard Asia Pacific; and Chief Executive of the Department of Education and Training, Mr Gary Barnes.

The scholarship will be funded jointly for three years by Charles Darwin University, the Northern Territory Government, and a corporate sponsor, Blackboard Asia Pacific.

The annual scholarship is valued at up to \$46,000, with the first applications to be invited in June this year. The successful candidate will be selected on the basis of merit and the significance of the project to the Northern Territory, and the inaugural Fulbright NT Scholar will be announced in March 2011.

Anne Wexler Scholarships

The Australian-American Fulbright Commission is to administer a major new scholarship program in honour of Mrs Anne Wexler.

The creation of the prestigious Anne Wexler Scholarships was announced by Prime Minister Kevin Rudd on 15 August 2009, in a speech to the Australian-American Leadership Dialogue, in Melbourne, to commemorate her many contributions for progressing Australian-American relations.

The Anne Wexler Scholarships are part of the Australian Government's Australia Awards Program and funded through the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR). Two Anne Wexler Scholarships will be awarded each year, one for an Australian scholar and one for an American scholar for study or research in the partner country, towards a Masters degree for up

to two years, and valued at up to \$140,000 each to attract outstanding candidates.

The inaugural scholarships for 2011 will be awarded on merit and for research into topics which reflect Mrs Wexler's interests and matters of binational interest, such as public policy projects in key areas of health, sustainability, energy, climate change, regional security, political science and history, or government relations.

Anne Wexler was a successful Washington U.S. lobbyist, who had a long interest in Australia. She was a senior official with the US Department of Commerce before embarking on her lobbying career, and a democrat whose career highlights included working for President Jimmy Carter. She was awarded an Order of Australia (AO) by the Australian Government for her work on the Australia - United States Free Trade Agreement. She passed away on 7 August 2009.

International Fulbright Science and Technology Awards

The Australian-American Fulbright Commission is seeking applications this year for the International Fulbright Science and Technology Awards in 2011, the U.S. Government's most prestigious and valuable education scholarship program. These awards are for promising graduate students to undertake PhD study at a U.S. university in fields of science, technology or engineering.

About 40 scholarships are offered annually to graduate students from around the world who can demonstrate outstanding aptitude and innovation in science, technology or engineering. The scholarships for 3 years are valued at up to \$300,000 and include monthly living allowance, travel, tuition, book and other allowances.

Applications opened in February and close on 1 May 2010, and there has been keen interest in the awards.

Further information is available from the Fulbright website at: www.fulbright.com.au/scholarships/InternationalFulbrightScienceandTechnologyAwards.html

New Fulbright Scholarship in Nuclear Science and Technology

A new Fulbright Scholarship in Nuclear Science and Technology was established in March 2010 sponsored by the Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation (ANSTO).

The scholarship, valued at \$40,000, will support a Professional or Senior Scholar for up to six months research or study in the U.S.

The scholarship will promote Australian-American research collaboration and training into the applications of nuclear science and technology, such as materials, health, climate change, mining and engineering.



Dr Adi Paterson, Chief Executive Officer, Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation shaking hands with Dr Joe Hlubucek, Executive Director, Fulbright Commission.

Events & dates for 2010

April

Tuesday, 20 April

South Australian State Reception, University of Adelaide

Friday, 23 April

Western Australian State Reception, U.S. Consul-General's residence, Perth

August

19-20 August

Fulbright Symposium, *Sustaining Societies in the Tropical World*, Hilton Hotel, Cairns

Thursday, 26 August

Enrichment Program for U.S. Scholars, Brassey Hotel and Enrichment Dinner, the Boat House restaurant in Canberra

The Fulbrighter is the newsletter of the Australian-American Fulbright Commission. We welcome your stories, photographs and comments. If you would like to contribute to the newsletter, please contact:

Rosemary Schmedding
Communication Manager, Fulbright Commission

email commsmanager@fulbright.com.au
telephone 02 6260 4460

Applications are now invited to host the 2011 Fulbright Symposium

Applications close on **2 August 2010.**

The Fulbright Commission annually provides a grant of \$A30,000 to support an Australian institution hosting a conference on a topic of bi-national relevance to Australia and the United States.

For more information and an application form visit:

www.fulbright.com.au

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AUSTRALIAN ALUMNI (WG WALKER) SCHOLARSHIP

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