

# the fulbrighter

A U S T R A L I A

## THROUGH A LENS, CLEARLY

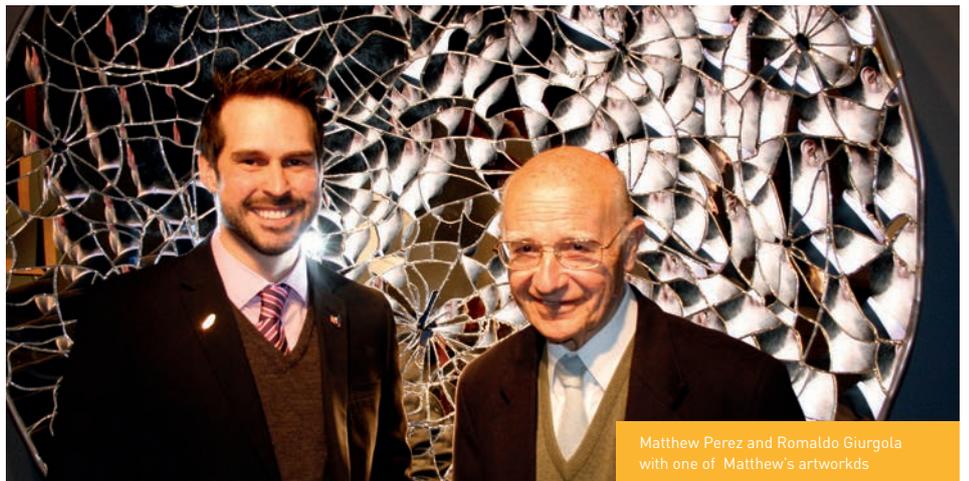
Glass artist Matthew Day Perez, who recently completed his Fulbright in Canberra, held a solo exhibition of his work at the Canberra Glassworks at the end of June.

A group of Fulbright Scholars, Alumni, Commission staff and other friends joined Matthew at the opening of the exhibition, which was called *Clearly*.

Creative Director of the Glassworks, Ms Clare Belfrage, introduced the show, saying how delighted the community at the Glassworks has been to have Matthew in Australia, and how pleased they were to be able to present the solo show.

The key speaker who opened the event was well-known architect, Romaldo (Aldo) Giurgola, himself a Fulbright Alumnus (1949 to the U.S. from Italy). Aldo has had an impressive career, being a principal architect in the Canberra-based company Mitchell Giurgola and Thorp, which designed the new Parliament House in Canberra and other significant Australian buildings. The company has been awarded some of the industry's leading and most prestigious prizes, including being a two-time winner of the RAIA Sir Zelman Cowen Award for Public Buildings.

Aldo paid tribute to the work of his fellow Fulbrighter Matthew, which he said was extraordinary, and then spoke about his



Matthew Perez and Romaldo Giurgola with one of Matthew's artworks

own Fulbright, the opportunities it offered, and the impact that it had on his life.

"The Fulbright was a wonderful thing for me. It allowed me to realise my aspiration to become an architect."

Aldo had received his Fulbright soon after finishing school, and he spent two years at Columbia in New York. He said that he had always benefitted from the award and felt grateful to Fulbright.

Matthew Perez came to Australia at the end of 2010, to the ANU School of Art to gain a detailed understanding of a part of the process of casting glass known as annealing.

"Cast glass is made by putting sand into a mould and melting it at a high temperature. Annealing is the step where cast glass is cooled, and it is crucial that this is done properly to ensure that the resultant glass object won't crack or shatter due to internal stresses in the material."

Reflecting back on his experience, Matthew said that it had gone beyond his expectations.

"It was fantastic. I achieved my initial project aims and then some. It gave me the opportunity, the time and place to work. My project evolved in a healthy response to the work I was doing, migrating in response to problems of cracking. I was able to embrace the qualities of glass. The Fulbright name was a great support."

"I learnt more about the annealing of glass, which has given me more confidence in working with the material. The experience itself was also pretty amazing, I went on tour to a few universities, was able to teach, and I ran two shows."

Matthew has returned to the U.S. and is undertaking a lecture and teaching tour to share the experience and insights he has gained during his Fulbright. He is also planning a return to Australia in the future.

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## ED's update

The last few months have been extremely busy for the Fulbright Commission.

We have had the new Fulbright branding moving into full force, a new website, development and implementation of the IT infrastructure at the Commission, the new Alumni Outreach program underway, Scholarships opening, in addition to our usual promotional presentations, receptions and other activities.

We are also working on making more of our interactions with the outside world electronic. Those of you who have visited our website ([www.fulbright.com.au](http://www.fulbright.com.au)) recently will notice that we have boosted our social media presence and in addition to our closed Facebook group for Scholars and Alumni, we now have an outward facing Facebook page, a Twitter account and a YouTube Channel. These are all accessible by clicking the "Connect with us" button on the home page of the website. We have added the Alumni videos we filmed in Sydney in March to the YouTube Channel, giving visitors easier access to information about some of our Alumni.

It has been wonderful to get out to 33 universities for presentations and all Australian states to meet so many of our professional contacts and our Fulbright Scholars and Alumni at the recent receptions. We would like to express our sincere appreciation to the hosts of all these events.

This month we are privileged to have the Chair of the Fulbright Scholarship Board from the U.S., Mr Tom Healy visit Australia. We will report more on that visit in the next newsletter.

Ms Lyndell Wilson and myself are planning to visit several cities in the U.S. in the last two weeks of October to meet with Alumni and other Fulbright contacts—we will update you with the details once they are available.

Next year is the Centenary of Canberra and the Fulbright Commission is preparing to host two events in Canberra during this festival year. I mentioned in the previous newsletter that the 2013 Fulbright Presentation Dinner will be held at Parliament House in Canberra on 21 March 2013. I am also extremely proud to announce that the 2013 Fulbright Symposium will be hosted by ourselves, and will be held in Canberra next year in August. With the theme focusing on the impact of the Fulbright Program across the decades the event will run in conjunction with the Enrichment Program for the incoming Fulbright U.S. Scholars. I look forward to meeting many of you at these and other events.

*Tangerine Holt*

**Dr Tangerine Holt,**  
Executive Director  
Australian-American Fulbright  
Commission

## FAIG Winner – Associate Professor John Foster

**The Australian-American Fulbright Commission is pleased to announce the winner of the 2012 Fulbright Alumni Initiative Grant (FAIG) is Associate Professor John Foster. The FAIG provides \$10,000 to support an Australian-American Fulbright Alumnus to develop innovative projects that will foster institutional linkages and sustainable, mutually beneficial relationships.**

A/Prof Foster was a Senior Scholar in 2009 at the McGowan Institute for Regenerative Medicine at the University of Pittsburgh. Currently at the School of Biotechnology and Biomolecular Sciences at the University of New South Wales (UNSW), John returned to the McGowan Institute to train his U.S. counterparts on utilizing new technologies that focuses on enhancing wound-healing processes in brain surgery.

A doctoral student accompanied A/Professor Foster.

This collaboration will help consolidate existing linkages between UNSW and the McGowan Institute.

Professor Foster sent us some comments about his Fulbright Scholarship.

"My project investigated the innovative coalescence of novel Australian and American technologies. The unique combination of our laser activated surgical adhesive with a wound healing biomaterial provides a means of sutureless sealing of wounds with enhanced tissue regeneration. In the US, I explored various techniques for combining the technologies, with designs to suit a variety of clinical scenarios.

My US host was a research institute of a university and it was extremely illuminating to experience the different attitude they had to research compared to their Australian counterparts. Given the applied nature of our exciting research, I had anticipated some degree of commercial consideration, but the US expectations were far more entrepreneurial.

My scholarship was a success with a number of worthy outcomes. The Australian-US connection is established and this has been cemented with the

award of a Fulbright Alumni grant which will support my return to the host. As anticipated, the Fulbright influence has extended beyond the initial project with a number of students and junior researchers benefitting from an exchange. The project established by the Fulbright has grown and is a major focus of my group's research."



John with Dr. Johnson in the lab with the SurgiLux adhesive (green – Australian technology) and the ECM biomaterial (white – US technology)



The reception at Bond University.



Fulbright Scholar, Dr Claire Gordon, at the NT Reception.



Professor McWha with prominent Fulbright Alumnus, Dr Basil Hetzel AC.

## Meeting the Scholars at the Fulbright receptions

Members of the Fulbright Alumni, and a range of other friends of the Fulbright Program had the opportunity to meet their local 2012 Fulbright Australian and visiting U.S. Scholars during April and May at the annual Fulbright receptions, which were held in several Australian states.

Following soon after the successful event at the end of March in Tasmania, which was covered in the previous newsletter, came the reception hosted by Charles

Darwin University in the Northern Territory on April 4, at The Colonnade, at the University. The event was hosted by Professor Barney Glover and a lovely group of Fulbright contacts came along to meet the Fulbright NT Scholars, Professor Michael Douglas and Dr Claire Gordon.

The Queensland reception was held on April 19 at Bond University, Gold Coast. It was hosted by the VC of Bond University, Professor Tim Brailsford.

The Victorian State reception was hosted on April 24 at The South Dining Room at University House at the Woodward, Carlton, hosted by Professor Glyn Davis.

On May 8 the State Reception was held in South Australia, at the Ingkarni Wardli hosted by Professor James A McWha AO Vice-Chancellor & President of The University of Adelaide.

The WA reception was held on May 10, in the Senate Suite at Murdoch University and was hosted by Fulbright Alumnus Professor Richard Higgott, VC of the University.

## TO THE HEART OF AUSTRALIA

**Ms Katie Thurber is a 2011 Anne Wexler U.S. Scholar. She has sent us an update of her scholarship. The Anne Wexler Scholarship is run through the Australia Awards program and is administered by the Fulbright Commission.**

I am approaching the completion of my first year of my Masters at the National Centre for Epidemiology and Population Health (NCEPH), and my first year of life in Australia, thanks to the Anne Wexler Scholarship in Public Policy and the Australia Awards. My interest lies in health inequity, and my current research focuses on the disproportionately high burden of chronic disease faced by Indigenous Australians. For example, the prevalence of Type II diabetes is 2-4 times higher in Indigenous compared to non-Indigenous adults, and 18 times higher in Indigenous compared to non-Indigenous children. Low birth weight, due to its association with the deposition of fat centrally during early childhood growth, may underlie this disparate disease burden. I am using a longitudinal study of Indigenous children to examine this association, and to disentangle factors underlying the disparate rates of overweight, diabetes and other chronic disease in Indigenous, compared to non-Indigenous, Australians. I am truly enjoying my studies, and hope

to continue to my research through a PhD at NCEPH, building upon the connections I have forged in my first year here.

In my time at NCEPH so far, I have had the opportunity to meet countless professionals in the public health sphere, and I have been exposed to a wealth of knowledge and resources that have inspired me and shaped my course of study. I have received great support from the faculty at the NCEPH and from the Australian-American Fulbright Commission. I have been privileged to meet numerous great contacts through the Fulbright network, which has been incredibly valuable for me. In fact, it was through the Fulbright network that I met Dr Hamish Graham, and had the opportunity to travel to Alice Springs this May.

Hamish is a Paediatric Registrar at the Alice Springs Hospital, and is heading to Baltimore, Maryland on a Fulbright scholarship to do a Masters in Public Health at Johns Hopkins University. Visiting Hamish in Alice Springs was a great opportunity to learn from him and his colleagues about

their experience working in Indigenous health, and to share my research and receive valuable feedback. I was very fortunate to have the chance to fly out to a remote community with two Community Paediatricians and spend the day at the local health centre. I also spent a day at the Central Australian Aboriginal Congress in Alice Springs, which served as an interesting contrast to the remote health clinic. I also had the chance to do some sightseeing while I was in Alice Springs; I visited Hermannsburg, which was established as an Aboriginal mission in 1877, and traveled to Uluru, which was magnificent. My trip to Alice Springs was incredibly valuable in allowing me to contextualise my research, and to witness Indigenous health first-hand. It would not have been possible for me to have such a meaningful trip without Hamish's help. Hamish and his wife Mariam were wonderful hosts, and both truly inspiring people; I am truly lucky to have met them.



Katie on Mt Glenn in central Australia

## 2012 Fulbright U.S. Scholars



**Professor Burdett Loomis**  
*Fulbright Flinders University Distinguished Chair in American Political Science*

Political Science, University of Kansas. Research into lobbying and its impact in Australia, which will provide a basis for comparative work, at Flinders University.



**Professor Malcolm Feeley**  
Political Science, University of California. Research into privatisation in the criminal justice system in Australia, at Flinders University.



**Professor Christopher B. Barrett**  
Economics, Cornell University. Research into the effects of global food markets on poverty and food insecurity in the world at, Monash University.

### Fulbright Senior Scholars



**Dr Charles Meneveau**  
Mechanical engineering, Johns Hopkins University. To develop and test new hybrid turbulence models, combining both random and coherent elements, at the University of Melbourne.



**Professor Mari Ostendorf**  
Engineering, University of Washington. Integration of prosody (pitch and timing modulation) with syntax for spoken language processing, at Macquarie University.



**Dr Christopher Roberts**  
Music. To integrate two hundred songs he documented from the Wopkaimin people in the remote Star Mountains of Papua New Guinea, into an exhibit and research project at the South Australian Museum.

### 2012 Fulbright Postgraduate Scholars



**Professor S. Mark Tompkins**  
Biological Sciences, University of Georgia. Collaborative development of therapeutic drugs for Hendra and Nipah viruses, with CSIRO's Australian Animal Health Laboratory.



**Ms Hannah Barrett**  
Psychology, University of Massachusetts. To undertake research in psychology looking at overcoming the stigmatizing effects of hearing loss at the ANU for 12 months.



**Mr Emmet Cleary**  
Engineering, CALTECH. Research on a technique that burns fuels with lower emissions of pollutants, known as moderate or intense low-oxygen dilution (MILD) combustion, at the University of Adelaide.

## 2012 Fulbright Postgraduate Scholars



**Mr Israel Del Toro**  
2012 Fulbright CSIRO Postgraduate Scholar

Ecology, University of Massachusetts Amherst. Research into how assemblages of ants vary along environmental gradients in the seasonal tropics of Northern Australia, and how dominant and abundant species may respond to climate change, with CSIRO Climate Adaptation Flagship, for a year.



**Ms Sytske Hillenius**  
Arts Management and Music, College of Charleston. Research will focus on Celtic musical traditions and their influence on Tasmanian music as well as the multicultural influences on the traditions from the many immigrants to Tasmania, at The University of Melbourne.



**Mr Steven Limpert**  
Fulbright Alumni and Climate Change Scholar

Electrical engineering, Arizona State University. Conduct research in the area of high efficiency, hot carrier and nanostructured solar cells, at UNSW.

## Anne Wexler U.S. Scholar



**Mr Mark O'Donnell**  
Fulbright ANU College of Business and Economics Scholar

MBA, University of Chicago. Mark will study how effective Infrastructure Australia has been in attracting private sector investment in Australian infrastructure with a view to applying the best practice methods in the United States, at the ANU College of Business and Economics.



**Ms Cecilia Prator**  
Biology, Occidental College. To explore the venom of understudied spiders, scorpions and centipedes, for compounds known as peptides, which could possibly be used to make environmentally friendly insecticides, at the University of Queensland.



**Ms Samantha Shockley**  
Chemistry, Biochemistry and Biology, University of Chicago. To contribute to the development of new, concise and laboratory-based syntheses of Australian marine natural products that could prove useful in the development of new drugs, at the ANU.



**Mr Jeremy Gahm**  
Anne Wexler U.S. Scholar  
Finance, University of South Carolina. Research exploring possible ways for different stakeholders to improve capital markets and/or to increase the capital available to entrepreneurs.

## Fulbright Senior Specialist Program (FSSP)

Following four very successful FSSP Programs earlier in the year, the second half of 2012 will see another four U.S. Senior Specialists visit Australian institutions on the FSSP.

We warmly welcome these distinguished guests to Australia and wish them and their host institutions all the best in their programs.

Applications for the 2013 FSSP are now open. For details visit our website or call us on (02) 6260 4460.

Specialist	Host institution(s)	Discipline	Program description	Program commences
<b>Mr Arn Aprill</b> , Chicago Arts Partnership in Education	University of Tasmania	Education	Improving and sustaining quality arts education partnerships	26 June
<b>Professor Robert Warner</b> , University of California – Santa Barbara	University of Technology, Sydney and James Cook University	Environmental Science	Collaboration on the design, evaluation and monitoring of marine protected areas.	30 June
<b>Dr Jean Harvey-Berino</b> , University of Vermont	University of Newcastle	Public/Global Health	Developing web-based lifestyle programs for healthy body weight	19 August
<b>Professor Christopher Layne</b> , Texas A&M University	University of Melbourne	Political Science	Scholarship on the Australia-U.S. partnership in the face of a rising China	TBA



Kristen hard at work in the bat cave.

## TRACKING BATS FOR SUSTAINABILITY

**Ms Kristen Lear was awarded a Fulbright Scholarship in 2011 to come to Australia to study population and breeding of the Southern Bent-wing Bat. She has sent us this update of her Fulbright project.**

My Fulbright journey began over two years ago with an idea to combine my passion for bats with my long-standing desire to see Australia. Two years later that idea has led me to Naracoorte, South Australia to study the Critically Endangered Southern Bent-wing Bat (*Miniopterus schreibersii bassanii*). The Southern Bent-wing Bat was listed as Critically Endangered under Australia's Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act of 1999 based on the fact that the sub-species has undergone a reduction in population from about 100,000-200,000 individuals in the 1960s to about 30,000 individuals in 2009 and that it has a highly restricted range, relying on only two maternity caves (Bat Cave in Naracoorte and Starlight Cave in

Warrnambool, Victoria). The aim of my Fulbright project is to monitor the bats at the Bat Cave maternity site and at their overwintering sites throughout South East South Australia and southwest Victoria. The information gathered from my study will help guide management strategies that will aid in the recovery of this species.

I arrived in Australia in August 2011 and began monitoring the Bat Cave colony shortly afterward. My nightly work during the summer months consisted of setting up a thermal imaging camera outside Bat Cave to count the bats with an automated counting system developed from U.S. military missile-tracking software. This method is a much easier and less time-consuming way to count the bats than the previous method of hand counting from a video recording, considering that the highest number of bats I recorded was over 42,000 and that the bats can come out of the cave at rates over 1,000 per minute! Now that the bats have left the

maternity cave for their over-wintering sites (they spend the winter in over 60 caves throughout the region) I am helping to plan a winter survey of all known over-wintering caves in conjunction with the South Australian Department of Environment and Natural Resources and the Victorian Department of Sustainability and Environment. I am excited for this survey, as it will involve volunteers from both states and will be a useful tool in determining which caves are most important for the bats in winter.

The Fulbright has allowed me to pursue my passion for bats and further explore what my long-term interests are. Ever since my first summer of working with bats after my sophomore year of college, I knew I wanted to pursue a PhD to explore some aspect of bat ecology. Through my Fulbright work and my interactions with other bat researchers at conferences and workshops in Australia, I have come to realize what aspect of bat ecology I'm most interested in: the role of bats in providing ecosystem services in agricultural systems and how to best encourage farmers to incorporate bats (and other natural pest controllers) in their management strategies, with the ultimate aim to create more sustainable agricultural practices. There are so many intricacies in the study of "ecosystem services" and it's definitely a complicated issue, but it's something that I think is very important as we strive to maintain a balance between conservation and economic growth and development. I strongly believe that the two ends don't have to be mutually exclusive; this is one of the ideas I hope to pursue further in graduate school. My time in Australia will be coming to an end soon, but I know I will not soon forget my experiences here as a Fulbright Scholar.



Lashi Bandara following the transit of Venus.

*Lashi Bandara is a 2011 Fulbright Australian Scholar, who went to the U.S. in November 2011 to progress his work in mathematics at Stanford and the University of Missouri. He has sent us this report of his Fulbright.*

## TAKING FULBRIGHT TO THE TRANSIT

When I set out on my Fulbright, I could not have envisioned that my experience would be so rich. My time in the U.S. began with a visit to Philip Glass' 9th Symphony orchestra with a fellow Fulbright Krysten Keches (Fulbright U.S. Scholar 2010) at Carnegie Hall in New York. This was only the beginning of a remarkable experience.

For my Fulbright project, I have been considering a general version of a mathematical problem popularly (in the right circles) called the Kato Square Root problem. My PhD supervisor, Alan McIntosh, was one of a team of five that

# Fulbright on ice: Marvin Alfaro

**Fulbright Alumnus Marvin Alfaro recently returned to the U.S. from his Fulbright in Australia. Marvin was the 2011 Fulbright CSIRO Postgraduate Scholar, sponsored by CSIRO. He has sent this reflection on his experience.**

My motivation for a Fulbright Scholarship began my first-year at the University of Miami with flyers questioning my interest of studying, teaching, or conducting research abroad after graduation. Throughout my undergraduate degree I was repeatedly reminded of this prestigious scholarship, but was unable to take action, as I was still a few years away from graduating. Thanks to Kefryn Reese, the Fulbright Campus Representative at the University of Miami, I was reminded of this opportunity and encouraged to apply when it was time in my senior year of college.

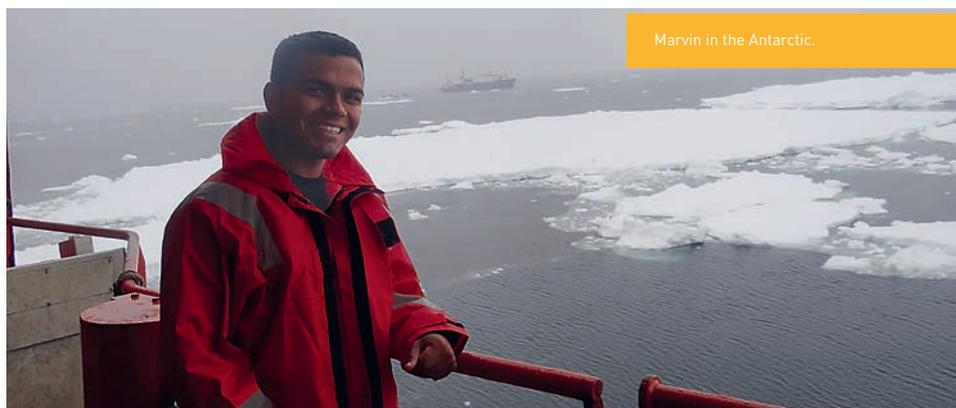
From University of Miami's intellectually stimulating and multi-cultural

environment, to lively discussions about pertinent global issues at the University of East Anglia, and summer research projects focusing on ocean-atmosphere interactions, my life perspectives became expanded across international boundaries. Under the supervision of Dr. Nicole Lovenduski at the University of Colorado at Boulder, I was introduced to several important ongoing oceanography projects focusing on the Southern Ocean. I wanted to continue a project of similar caliber and was keen on making my Fulbright project proposal 'hands-on,' hence living physically closer to the Southern Ocean. I saw a plethora of opportunities awaiting me in Australia to experience Southern Ocean research in ways I would not otherwise be able to.

Living in Australia has enabled me to implement my original Southern Ocean project with new in-situ Argo-Float instruments and experience hands-on research as a member of the physical

oceanography team on Australia's marine science research trip to Antarctica. It also permitted me to take part in promoting awareness about Antarctic and Indo-Pacific regional issues. In addition, I volunteered with Sydney's non-government organization, Pacific Island Partnership, presented at a conference for student activists, and volunteered with 'Global Village' in Rabi, Fiji. I have also realized due to its geographical disconnection, the United States' presence and influence is reduced in this region of the world. I realized the need to continuously strengthen the understanding between the U.S. and other nations to build and maintain positive economic and environmental relations. This past year, thanks to the Fulbright Scholarship, my ambitions have evolved and matured, and I have recently become mindful of how my experiences have set a foundation for a career as a diplomat in the United States Foreign Service.

While pursuing my dream of becoming an expert environmental scientist, I found myself increasingly intrigued by the idea of building a "bridge of knowledge." This would embrace my scientific background, but cross into policy analysis and development. As a Fulbright Scholar in Australia, my experience proliferated and solidified my recently developed Foreign Service career ambitions. In April 2012 I was chosen as a 2012 Thomas R. Pickering Graduate Foreign Affairs Fellow. Becoming a Foreign Service Officer for the U.S. Department of State is a career choice that parallels my vision of a prosperous profession and lifestyle, while being an advocate and exemplary representative of America's diverse people around the world, as Senator J. William Fulbright envisioned in 1946 when establishing this prestigious international exchange program.



brought the original problem in Euclidean space - a space without curvature - to a successful conclusion. I have been looking at generalisations of this problem to geometries that have curvature. Even prior to me coming out here on the Fulbright, we made some inroads into this problem.

So far, I've written two papers - one that began while I was still at ANU and have completed here during my time on the Fulbright and more recently, a paper which is taking a slightly different direction, unifying some important technical results from a single perspective.

This latter paper was commenced while at the University of Missouri and finished while visiting Northwestern University for a conference. This paper would not have

been written if I had not talked to Dean Baskin at Northwestern, who provided me with the final needed clue!

In between doing research, I spent time visiting the Trumann museum in Independence, MO and to Fulton, MO, where Winston Churchill gave his famous "iron curtain" speech. Then, I attended the Spring Lecture Series, a maths conference, in Fayetteville, Arkansas. At the same time, I got to see the house in which Senator Fulbright grew up. I was also able to head to Washington, DC on a Fulbright enrichment seminar and to Northwestern University to a conference held in honour of former Fulbrighter Terry Tao.

In commencing the second half of my Fulbright, I drove approximately 5000kms

across the US, from Columbia, MO to Stanford, CA. On this trip I was able to photograph the transit of Venus from the Tucson Mountains!

This was a highlight event where I felt that I represented what the Fulbright programme was all about. I had set up my private telescope in a car park on the side of this mountain, and a stream of people came through thinking that it was a public set up. Indeed, I invited them to look through at the transit through my equipment, and I engaged them in conversation, educating them about the transit and the Fulbright Program since so many asked me about why I'm out there doing this.

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:

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 Fulbright Scholars and Alumni, join our group on Facebook

## Events and dates

### SEPTEMBER

**30 September 2012**  
*Anne Wexler Applications close*

### OCTOBER

*Last two weeks, Fulbright Events in the U.S. - details to come soon.*

**26 October 2012**  
*FSSP Applications Close*

### NOVEMBER

**30 November 2012**  
*Fulbright end of year reception, U.S. Embassy Canberra*

### MARCH

**21 March 2013**  
*2013 Fulbright Presentation Dinner for Australian Fulbright and Anne Wexler Scholars, Parliament House, Canberra*

### AUGUST

**August 2013**  
*Fulbright U.S. Scholar Enrichment, and Fulbright Symposium, Canberra*

## Applications for the 2013 Fulbright Senior Specialist Program (FSSP) are now open!

The FSSP is an excellent opportunity for Australian institutions to engage the expertise of Specialists across disciplines from the U.S. for a 2-6 week program.

**Applications close**  
**26 October 2012**

For more information

**W** [fulbright.com.au](http://fulbright.com.au)  
**P** (02) 6260 4460 or  
**E** [lyndell.wilson@fulbright.com.au](mailto:lyndell.wilson@fulbright.com.au)



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