

the fulbrighter

A U S T R A L I A

FOREIGN SCHOLARSHIP BOARD CHAIR VISITS AUSTRALIA

“Make portraits and maps of the ways you experience this country, understand its songs, tell your stories and listen for stories you will find here. Then bring all of it back with you,” J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board (FFSB) Chair, Mr Tom Healy counseled the incoming Fulbright U.S. Scholars at the Enrichment Dinner.

As part of his Perth, Melbourne, Canberra and Sydney tour, Mr Healy was guest speaker at the Enrichment Dinner for the incoming U.S. Scholars, which was held at the National Portrait Gallery in Canberra on 23 August.

In his colourful and entertaining speech, Mr Healy congratulated the Scholars on behalf of President Obama and Secretary of State Clinton, paid tribute to the role of the Portrait Gallery in the nation’s identity, talked about what portraits mean to a nation and where Fulbright Scholars fit in.

“As Fulbrighters, you will have the obligation and the thrilling privilege to



FFSB Chair, Mr Tom Healy, with Fulbright Commission Executive Director, Dr Tangerine Holt, at the Fulbright office in Canberra.

make unique portraits, stories, and maps of your journey—as did the over 300,000 Fulbrighters before you. And it very much matters that these are your journeys, your investigations, your stories. It is only the entire array, the interconnection of all your stories, which offers the rest of us some glimpse of accuracy.”

“You didn’t get \$10 million dollars, but we did choose you to go find wisdom. We will be eagerly waiting to learn what you’ll bring back home, your portraits, your self-portraits, and you.”

Whilst in Australia, Mr Healy met with Minister Chris Evans and VC’s at universities; heads of art galleries and the American Chamber of Commerce; journalists; Fulbright Scholars and Alumni; Commission Board and staff; Ambassadors Jeffrey Bleich from the U.S. and Nasir Andisha from Afghanistan; and Senator Gary Humphries, among others.

The full speech can be found at <http://tomhealyfsb.tumblr.com/>

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ED's update

Before talking about Commission activities, I would like to express our sympathies to all of those people in the U.S. who were affected by the terrible storm in the U.S. in October.

The Fulbright Commission staff members were extremely concerned about the safety of all of our Fulbright Scholars, Alumni, colleagues and other contacts, and we hope that you are all safe and well.

For us here at the Commission it has been very busy as usual and exciting over the past three months.

In August, we were pleased to welcome Mr Tom Healy, FFSB Chair, to the Commission in Canberra and to Australia. Mr Healy visited Australia for two weeks, taking in Perth, Melbourne, Sydney and Canberra. He caught up with many heads

We would also like to extend our great appreciation to Ambassador Jeffrey Bleich and his wife Rebecca for hosting the Fulbright Reception at the end of November at their home. We were delighted to see so many of our Fulbright Family and friends at this event.



Photo: Travis Longmore, U.S. Embassy

of organisations, universities and Fulbright Alumni on his way through. We would like to thank everyone very much for taking the time to meet him and making him so welcome.

We were delighted to have Mr Healy attend the Enrichment Dinner for the incoming Fulbright U.S. Scholars on 23 August. At the dinner Tom had the opportunity to meet another of our VIP Fulbright Alumni, Ambassador Nasir Andisha of Afghanistan, and Senator Gary Humphries, along with sponsors and selection committee members and other Fulbright friends.

This was followed with the selections for 2013 Fulbright Scholars in Australia and then my trip to the U.S. It was wonderful to be able to catch up with our Australian Scholars, and meet many of our Fulbright Alumni at the events in New York, Washington, Chicago, San Francisco and Los Angeles. I would like to thank our colleagues and partners who helped to organise and run these events. We are very grateful for your support.

Closer to home we have recently said farewell to two of our longest-serving Fulbright Commission Staff, Lyndell Wilson and Natalie Collins and to Sarah Howcroft. All of them are moving on to new experiences and we wish them well with their future endeavours. We also said farewell in October to the interim Finance Manager, Ms Lesley Piko, who

had returned to the Commission this year for several months but has moved on to complete her PhD. We are now welcoming on board our new staff, Dr Ruth Martin, Manager of Scholarships; Li-er Kendall, Program Coordinator and Nicole Healy, Executive Assistant and Office Manager.

I am very pleased to say that The Australian National University and the University of Canberra have agreed to come on board to co-host the Fulbright Presentation Dinner, which will be held on **21 March** next year at Parliament House in Canberra. We are very much looking forward to seeing many of you next year at the event.

Tangerine Holt

Dr Tangerine Holt,
Executive Director
Australian-American Fulbright
Commission

We at the Fulbright Commission would like to send our best wishes to all of our readers for the season. We hope that you have a wonderful holiday and we look forward to being in touch with you in the New Year.



2013 Fulbright Symposium Announcement

The Australian-American Fulbright Commission is proud to announce that we will host the Fulbright Symposium in 2013, in August 2013 in Canberra.

The 2013 Fulbright Symposium will be entitled *Soft Power: The Multiplier Effect of the Fulbright Program* and it will showcase the impact of soft power through the Fulbright program addressing contemporary issues across key themes of culture, education, public policy and research in the key disciplines of arts, environment, health, science and technology.

It will also demonstrate how excellence and innovation have led to partnerships, collaborations and linkages that are beyond the individual and will offer the opportunity to share best practice which benefits the individual, industry and practice.

This Symposium will bring together a number of prominent thinkers to stimulate discussion on the soft power of the Fulbright Program and its multiplier effect across culture, education, public policy and research.

The conference will be open to the Fulbright community of Scholars and Alumni, academics, researchers, industry, and government. The Symposium will focus on key themes of culture, education, public policy and research, encompassing areas where synergies exist and that are of strategic priority to the bi-national Fulbright Program.

The Symposium will be held on **21-23 August** at the Convention Centre in Canberra. The gala dinner, which will be combined with the Enrichment Dinner, will be held on **22 August** at the Gandel Hall, Australian National Gallery.



Senator Chris Evans (front row second from left) meets Mr Tom Healy (left front row) the Fulbright U.S. Scholars.



US Embassy Deputy Chief of Mission, Mr Jason Hyland and Mr Tom Healy with incoming U.S. Scholar, Ms Samantha Shockley.



Flinders University Prof Don Debats with Mr Tom Healy; Distinguished Chair Prof Malcolm Feeley; Prof Michael Barber, VC of Fulbright Flinders University and Dr Tangerine Holt.



Fulbright U.S. Scholars, Mark O'Donnell and Emily Baldock with their sponsor Professor Jane Godfrey, Dean of the ANU College of Business and Economics (centre).



Fulbright CSIRO Scholar Mr Israel Del Toro (Left) with CSIRO representatives Dr Miriam Baltuck, Dr Joanne Daly, Ms Kathy Dunn and Professor S. Mark Tompkins, an incoming U.S. Scholar also working with CSIRO.



Professor Christopher Roberts plays the *qin*.

Enrichment Program for U.S. Scholars

Fourteen Fulbright U.S. Scholars came to the Enrichment Program in August in Canberra, which was held at University House on The ANU Campus.

Highlights of the program this year were meeting FFSB Chair, Mr Tom Healy, and the Minister for Tertiary Education, Senator Chris Evans; the U.S. Ambassador, Mr Jeffrey Bleich; and the Deputy Chief of Mission, Mr Jason Hyland who attended the Enrichment Dinner.

The Scholars were given essential information to help them during their Fulbright Scholarships—introduction to Australia, visas and other paperwork, what is expected of Fulbright Scholars, meeting the media—along with a visit to Question Time and a meeting with Ambassador Bleich at his residence.

About 85 people attended the annual Enrichment Dinner, including Ambassador Andisha, Senator Gary Humphries

from Federal Parliament, members of selection committees, Fulbright Alumni, sponsors, and other friends of the Fulbright Program.

Mr Hyland, Commission Board Chair Professor Steven Schwartz and Fulbright U.S. Scholar Molly Gabbard all spoke at the dinner, in addition to Mr Tom Healy.

Fulbright Senior Scholar Professor Chris Roberts played a musical interlude on the *qin*.

Fulbright Commission visit to the U.S.

Dr Tangerine Holt visited the United States in October, and met with Fulbright Scholars and Fulbright Alumni in several cities.

A series of Roundtables were held with Alumni and Australian Scholars across the U.S. to increase the Commission's engagement with them. A series of new initiatives will follow as a result of these discussions.

The trip started out in New York, with presentations at SUNY and Columbia Universities, talking about the opportunities for Fulbright Scholars in Australia.

Tangerine met with our partners at the Institute of International Education (IIE).

She then met with Fulbright Scholars and Alumni at the NYU Fulbright Roundtable. This was followed by a reception co-hosted by NYU and organized by Dr James Buschman, 1976 Fulbright Alumnus. An Alumni dinner followed, organised by Fulbright Alumnus, Dr Adam Brown.

On Wednesday and Thursday Tangerine was in Washington for meetings with our partners at Council for International Exchange of Scholars (CIES), Mark Darby, previous Fulbright Commission Executive Director; colleagues from our funding body Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. A round table for Alumni and a reception were hosted by the Embassy of Australia, by Mr Graham Fletcher, Deputy Chief of Mission with the support of Mark Darby and his team. Mrs Harriet Fulbright attended the reception.

On Friday Tangerine went to "the Little Apple" Manhattan, Kansas, Kansas State University. She had an intense two days of meetings with President Kirk Shulz, his leadership team, faculty and students. She visited their centres of excellence, the Konza Prairie, and of course experienced college football at its very best.

The pace kept up, with Tangerine giving presentations at the University of Chicago and the University of Illinois (Chicago) before a Roundtable at the Australian Consulate followed by a reception. Mr Roger Price, Australian Consul-General, Chicago, attended and hosted both the Alumni Roundtable and the Reception.

The next day, Tuesday, Tangerine went to San Francisco, where she presented to students at UCSF on Halloween. A Roundtable for Fulbright Alumni and Scholars followed at UCSF, and an informal dinner with Alumni.

The trip wound up with a stop in LA on Thursday 1 November. Tangerine presented at UCLA, followed by a Fulbright Alumni and Scholars Roundtable and a drinks event with the LA Chapter of the Fulbright Association where she was greeted by the international Fulbright community.



Dr Holt at Georgetown University. Photo: Kelly Tsang



Dr Tangerine Holt and Mrs Harriet Fulbright with Fulbright Scholars and Alumni in Washington.



The Fulbright Scholars and Alumni at Dinner with Dr Holt in New York.



Assistant Professor Andrew Wroe, Dr Tangerine Holt, Dr Bernard Brandstater, Ms Leah Curtis, Ms Margit Bowler, Mr Matt Thompson, Dr Shahrdad Lotfipour at the reception.

Building partnerships with the Fulbright Association

On November 2nd we had the honor of welcoming Dr. Tangerine Holt to the Los Angeles Fulbright community at a reception attended by both US Fulbright alumni and current Fulbright visiting scholars.

Co-sponsored by the UCLA International Institute, the event had a marvelous turnout, including a healthy number of Australian Fulbrighters residing in Southern California. Our

guests were all very eager to meet Dr. Holt and discuss ideas for broadening the American-Australian Fulbright relationship, and her enthusiasm for exploring these ideas was infectious.

As is often the case at Fulbright events, ideas seemed to build on one another with inspiring speed, and it's always rewarding to watch new Fulbright connections develop. We

Fulbright Remembers:

Professor Francis Hibberd
1963 Senior Scholar in physics to Pennsylvania State University from the University of New England. Died in October 2012.

Emeritus Professor Nancy Millis AC MBE
1954 Senior Scholar in microbiology. Went to the University of Wisconsin – Madison from The University of Melbourne. Died in September 2012.

Professor Alfred Steinbeck
1963 Senior Scholar in medicine to Cornell University from the University of New South Wales. Died in June 2012.

at the Los Angeles chapter of the Fulbright Association consider this the first of many collaborations with the Australian-American Fulbright commission and look forward to deepening this relationship in the years to come.

Thomas Burns
Board Member
The Los Angeles Chapter
of the Fulbright Association

FULBRIGHT SENIOR SPECIALIST VISITS UTAS

Between June and August 2012 Mr Arnold Aprill of the Chicago Arts Partnership in Education (CAPE) visited the University of Tasmania (UTAS) as a Fulbright Senior Specialist.

Mr Aprill's project was entitled 'Devising innovative new technology solutions for the sustainability of quality arts education in Australian Schools'. Mr Aprill's host, Dr Mary Ann Hunter, sent us this report:

"Mr Aprill's visit to Australia well exceeded expectations. He worked tirelessly to share his expertise in arts education and was very generous in his efforts to help UTAS improve quality arts education teaching and research outcomes. Our program was also effective in seeding ongoing collaborations between UTAS staff, key government and community stakeholders, practitioners and teachers. A national

network of professional relationships was further developed and Mr Aprill's visit was the catalyst for a range of public presentations and industry and university events in Brisbane, Sydney, Melbourne, Hobart and Launceston.

There were a number of major ongoing research and teaching outcomes for UTAS as a result of this program. The relevance and impact of Mr Aprill's core messages about integrated cross-curricular learning and the key features of successful partnerships reached far beyond arts education communities. My colleagues and I are extremely thankful to the Australian-American Fulbright Commission for the excellent opportunity this has provided for UTAS to not only develop our programs but also new state, national and international partnerships."



Mr Aprill on tour in Sydney. Photo: Dr Hunter



Uncovering the story of Tasmanian folk dance music

2012 Fulbright Scholar, Ms Sytske Hillenius, recently arrived in Australia to take up her Fulbright Scholarship. She has sent us this report of her experiences so far.

My project is part of a Master's thesis in Ethnomusicology through the Melbourne Conservatorium of Music at the University

of Melbourne. My thesis will be a social and cultural history of live music for social dancing traditions in Tasmania in the Bush Dance vein.

When I started out, I thought the focus would be primarily on the influence of Celtic traditions on Tasmanian music, but I am finding more and more that eastern European traditions as well as American music have had just as much of an effect.

In addition, the focus is shifting away from a comprehensive history with accompanying music to more of an Ethnography about my fieldwork experiences while I am in Tasmania over the summer.

I am participating in the dance music scene, conducting interviews and encouraging conversations with musicians and dancers in the community about their experiences with music and dance traditions in Tasmania as well as literary research. In addition, I recently gained an external advisor, Dr. Aileen Dillane from the University of Limerick in Ireland, in addition to my advisor at the Melbourne Conservatorium, Dr. Catherine Falk.

So far things have gone pretty well. I have only been here for 5 months out of a planned 18 months. I also spent a few months at Melbourne University in 2010 so I had a good idea of what to expect during my time here. What has impressed me the most is everyone's eagerness to give me ideas and share their knowledge of musical and dancing traditions.

Everywhere I go, people are eager to learn about and help with my project. Just a few weeks ago, when an article ran in the Melbourne View section of The Age, I was contacted by some old time musicians from Maryland, Ken and Brad Kolodner, who just happened to be in Melbourne that day and we met up and played a few tunes together.

So far, some of the non-academic highlights of my experience have been watching whales breaching while bushwalking in the Nadgee-Howe Wilderness, playing music with some of the top young Melbourne folk musicians, and buying my first car so I can actually get around Tasmania to do interviews and attend events.

Sytske will perform at the 2013 Presentation Dinner, which will be held at Parliament House in Canberra on 21 March 2013.

Sam Nester: trumpeting success

Sam Nester went to the U.S. as a 2010 Fulbright Scholar. He has sent us this update of his experience.



Sam Nester performing with the MSM brass ensemble

When I first heard that I had received the Fulbright Scholarship, I was eagerly preparing for an upcoming recital and was working in the postgraduate study room at my University. At this stage, I was still unsure whether I would be studying in the USA or Europe and when the phone call came, the first pragmatic thought that crossed my mind was, "that decides that". To be honest, the reality of the situation didn't strike me at first and it was not until I hung up the phone, walked back into the room and told a friend of mine what had just happened. Once he got excited and

others around us joined in, I realized that all the work leading up to it was not only worthwhile, but made the feeling of being a recipient that much greater.

My Fulbright proposal was to engage in a Master of Music degree at the Manhattan School of Music, New York. I enrolled as a trumpet player to study under the internationally renowned professor Mark Gould, but didn't realize just how diverse my study would be. With Mr. Gould, I studied trumpet technique and musicality from all periods of Western Art Music in solo and various ensemble and orchestral styles. Beyond this, Mr. Gould nurtured a creative side that went outside the trumpet and into composition and even film. During my time at the Manhattan School of Music I was involved in the arranging of scores for large ensembles, solo performances, orchestral performances, working with filmmakers on a programme of live music and film, as well as conducting various ensemble concerts.

Before leaving Australia, I was lucky enough to be given the opportunity to conduct the Victorian Opera's youth Opera programme and from there, I became more involved as a conductor. One major project here in the USA saw me conducting two premier Operas at the Manhattan School of Music and another had me conducting works by John Cage, Morton Feldman and emerging

composers. I can safely say that the expectations of my time in the USA were not only met, but were furthered in a variety of ways.

Fulbright as name and sponsor has really made a difference in helping me to achieve recognition academically and professionally. I hadn't realized just how important the Fulbright name was until arriving in the USA. In New York, it has been met with great respect and as a mark of the quality of my work and level of achievement. One of the biggest factors determining my recent employment with an international arts organisation, was due to the fact that I was a Fulbright recipient. If there was one thing that I would say to future Fulbright scholars, it would be to use the network that Fulbright has put in place for you. To take advantage of the programmes that connect you with others in your field, or the many diverse fields of research that Fulbright sponsors. You never know what friendships or collaborations are to be created from making use of this.

One thing I have found interesting living in the USA is just how different the country can be from one state to another. Travelling from New York to Virginia, Florida, Illinois, Ohio made it clear that this country is a grand and wonderful place full of people with different ideals, lifestyles and culture.



Leah Curtis

Leah Curtis: a musical journey

Fulbrighter Leah Curtis (Postgraduate 2005) is nominated for Best Original Song Composed for the Screen for the APRA AGSC Australian Screen Music Awards in Melbourne and two Hollywood Music in Media Awards in Los Angeles this month. She talks about the impact that the Fulbright has had on her life and her music.

I don't think anything could have fully prepared me for the news of receiving the Fulbright, and the journey that I've embarked on as a result. For me, it was 2005. I had made a start on my music career and I was hoping to take my composing and conducting work into the rich medium of film and storytelling and to what is widely recognised as a major centre of the industry, Los Angeles. I received the call, and Fulbright had given me this chance.

There is no experience quite like standing in front of an orchestra with a sea of devoted musicians on board, and leading them with a conducting baton to hear the notes you've penned brought to life.

The Fulbright Commission challenged me to plan for the best possible experience to enable this. With their support, I set my sights on the film scoring program widely regarded as a rite of passage for leading film composers at the University of Southern California (USC), studying with Oscar and Pulitzer prize winning film and classical composer John Corigliano at the Aspen Music Festival in Colorado, all while completing a MA (Hons) at the Australian Film Television and Radio School (AFTRS) in Sydney.

What I did not expect was such diversity and intensity in my musical experiences and training in the U.S., along with brilliant collaborations I couldn't have imagined beforehand. I've been trained and have now worked in roles from film music conducting, music mixing and soundtrack producing, to orchestrating major studio feature films for leading international composers and have written and conducted original scores of my own, working with some of the very best musicians of our time. Just this year I wrote a title film song in Classical Latin

for an Ancient Roman drama, and on set under the stars in LA in a vast water tank in a wooden boat, coached our lead actress as she sang my song.

I also never expected to become such a part of the Los Angeles music community, but these days I find myself conducting some of the world's most influential musicians, at landmark scoring stages, including Capitol Studios and the Fox Scoring Stage. This community has been incredibly welcoming and supportive, and I have been encouraged at how enthusiastically I have been embraced as a colleague.

I am now transitioning into a new phase in my composing career. I expect to be writing music for international feature films in 2013, completing new classical commissions, and releasing the resulting soundtracks.

I am very grateful for the chance that Fulbright afforded me. I had not predicted the sheer value of the Fulbright in the U.S., how spontaneous applause greets its name, and the number of influential leaders across all fields this program has touched.

Personally, as my work has centred so far on films in international locations, times and perspectives (wartime Kuwait, ancient Rome, country New South Wales, Topanga Canyon) and with collaborators from equally diverse backgrounds, Fulbright has taught me to approach the world with an openness and understanding that existing as an Australian in an international arena has required, in order to authentically connect and understand others and to ultimately succeed in my work.

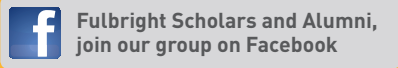
To write film music you need an incredibly vast skill set – to be able to compose, conduct and produce scoring sessions. You also need to be able to collaborate and align your vision with that of the director's while still taking creative musical risks. You need to be able to intelligently break down the story's drama and subtext and do all of this within a set deadline and budget. There are many things to master. Identifying all of these and tackling each hurdle has been a challenging and exhilarating ride so far.

Goals I have for the future include scoring groundbreaking feature films in Australia, the United States and wherever great stories take me, conducting a film score I've written at Abbey Road Studios in London, developing engaging collaborations with directors and musicians and to try and fulfil the potential I have in writing music.

You can hear some of Leah's music at www.leahcurtis.com

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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PLEASE NOTE, YOUR AFAA MEMBERSHIP MAY BE EXPIRING ON 31 DECEMBER

Australian Fulbright Alumni Association Membership

U.S. and Australian Alumni may use this form to **JOIN, RENEW and UPDATE** membership to the Australian Fulbright Alumni Association. Postal Address: PO Box 9541, Deakin ACT 2600. Tel: +61 2 6260 4460 Fax: +61 2 6260 4461 Email: alumni@fulbright.com.au



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