

# the fulbrighter

A U S T R A L I A

## \$1 million to support the Fulbright Indigenous Scholarship

The Minister for Indigenous Affairs, the Hon. Nigel Scullion, Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, has approved a grant of \$1 million to the Australian-American Fulbright Commission for the establishment of an endowment to provide ongoing funding for a Fulbright Indigenous Scholarship each year in perpetuity.

Professor Donald DeBats, Chair of the Australian-American Fulbright Commission Board, and Dr Tangerine Holt, Executive Director have welcomed this exceptional support.

The Scholarship was originally established in cooperation with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission (ATSIC) in 1993. As is fitting with the Fulbright mission, the Fulbright Indigenous Scholarship was established to recognise Indigenous commitment to achieving excellence, while seeking an international perspective and collaboration through research and study.

This scholarship has supported study and research in areas as diverse as Indigenous health, economic development, law, the Arts, communities and colonisation. Recipients of this Scholarship are Indigenous Australians with a passion and a desire to advance research in these areas for long term shared benefit.

The Scholarship is open to postgraduates, postdoctoral researchers, professionals and senior scholars. More information is available online at [www.fulbright.com.au](http://www.fulbright.com.au)  
**Applications close 1 August 2014**



2014 Fulbright Presentation Dinner, Brisbane. Dr Tangerine Holt joined by 2014 Australian Scholars, 2013 U.S. Scholars and Commission Staff.

## A warm welcome in Queensland

**The annual Australian-American Fulbright Commission's Presentation Dinner held on 6 March 2014 at Brisbane City Hall was attended by more than 250 guests gathered from across Australia and the United States.**

The 2014 Australian Scholars and the 2013 U.S. Scholars showcased their work in a vibrant and engaging session. Our esteemed guests took the opportunity to see first hand the breadth of academic disciplines and study areas represented. The Scholars put significant effort into creating the showcase and the event was a huge success. You can [read more](#) about the Australian and US Scholars on our

[website](#) and the breadth of disciplines supported by the Fulbright Program.

It was our honour to be welcomed by Councillor for Walter Taylor Ward, Julian Simmonds. Councillor Simmonds gave a warm welcome to country and spoke about the importance of educational and cultural exchange as a shared priority for Brisbane city and the Fulbright Commission, in Australia and internationally.

Dr Tangerine Holt, Executive Director of the Australian-American Fulbright Commission, invited 2014 Scholar,

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## From the Executive Director

Welcome to our mid-year newsletter. 2014 represents the 65th Anniversary for the Australian-American Fulbright Commission and is shaping up to be another fantastic year. We will mark our Anniversary in September, here in Canberra.

Firstly I would like to thank all of the sponsors, partners, universities, staff and alumni whose commitment made the 2014 Presentation Dinner such a huge success in Brisbane in March. It was a wonderful occasion and a pleasure to engage with so many individuals united by the Fulbright mission.

Many thanks are also due to the hosts of the 2014 Fulbright Roadshow. The State Receptions, Public Lecture Series and Information Sessions are not possible without your support. The opportunity to connect with the 2014 Australian and 2013 American Scholars, a range of leading Australian and US educational and research stakeholders, and the public more broadly resulted in events which were both engaging and inspirational.

We are rapidly approaching the 1 August closing date for applications for the suite of 2015 Fulbright Scholarships. 2015 sees the introduction of the Fulbright Inaugural Postdoctoral Scholarship in Cultural Competence which is sponsored by the National Centre for Cultural Competence (NCCC) at the University of Sydney. Alongside the renewed investment in the Fulbright Indigenous Scholarship this represents an expansion in breadth and social awareness within the Fulbright Program. We look forward to receiving high quality and innovative proposals from

unique individuals across the entire 2015 Fulbright Program.

The Commission staff are preparing for the upcoming selection processes and in particular are finalising membership of the Selection Committees. The rigour, integrity and fairness of the selection process is driven by the exceptional individuals who form these Committees. These 100+ individuals, who are highly accomplished and of significant standing in their own careers, all give their time generously and voluntarily. They are the backbone of the selection process, and supported by my own staff and the State Secretaries deliver an impeccable process.

Finally, I am pleased to announce that the Commission will host the 2015 Presentation Dinner in Perth on Thursday 19 February 2015. We look forward to congratulating and meeting the 2015 Australian Scholars and the 2014 American Scholars at this event.

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

## Dr Victoria A. Farrar-Myers

**2013-2014 Distinguished Chair in American Political Science, sponsored by Flinders University, Australia**

Professor of Political Science & Distinguished Teaching Professor, UT Arlington, Arlington, Texas, U.S.A.

Commencing a Fulbright is a whirlwind experience requiring you to enter with an open mind, and a willingness to see any and all interactions as opportunities to learn and grow. Acculturation is often a part of the experience you do not focus upon as you are too busy righting details and making sure your "project" gets off the ground. That is why the Fulbright Road Show providing an opportunity for Distinguished Chairs to travel to each of the major cities within Australia was such a wonderful addition to facilitating this acculturation process. Through each trip not only were we privileged to interact

with Fulbright alumni and other program participants, but with other academic institutions and affiliated centres.

For me as a social scientist, it was the ultimate experience of participant observation and a mini-study of what the full potential of the Fulbright exchange is all about; the power of individuals building trust, camaraderie, and understanding that transcends accents and postal codes. It is this "people to people" power that made me fully aware of the growth potential the Roadshow experiences provided for me as an individual: a type of learning that can only be done over time, in the act of doing, and with the aid and help of others.

Perhaps the greatest transformation for me as a person came out of these interactions; not for the knowledge or connections imparted to me, but the



hand of friendship and the potential to build a lasting network of individuals who allowed me to see with their eyes a world that is more open to this once focused American politics scholar.

## A warm welcome in Queensland (continued from page 1)

musician Joshua Dunn, to perform a piece on guitar. The passionate performance was an apt introduction to the 2014 Fulbright Scholars and their shared desire to learn, collaborate and make positive contributions to their field and beyond.

The Presentation Dinner, held in the magnificent historic ballroom, was marked by an inspiring presentation by Mr Thomas Dougherty, Deputy Chief of Mission, US Embassy Canberra. Mr Dougherty emphasised the importance of the relationship between the United States and Australia, and the immense value of continued collaboration between the nations.

The Hon Tony Abbott MP, Prime Minister of Australia, provided warm congratulations through a video message in which he reinforced the importance of cross-cultural collaboration, ties between Australia and the U.S and investment in education. The Leader of the Opposition, the Hon. Bill Shorten MP, also provided a message in support of the continued efforts of the Fulbright Commission to build education and cultural ties for long term benefit of both nations. The message was read by Professor Don DeBats, Australian-American Fulbright Commission Chair of the Board and Professor and Head of American Studies at Flinders University.

The Queensland Minister for Education, Training and Employment, the Hon. John Paul Langbroek provided valuable insight on the Queensland Government's education agenda and the long term goals for supporting home grown innovation and supportive international networks.

Professor DeBats spoke about the establishment of the Australian-American Fulbright Commission 65 years ago, and the continued relevance of its mission.

Forty exceptional individuals were presented with their Scholarship Certificates, beginning with our most prestigious scholarship, the Inaugural Distinguished Chair in Agriculture and Life Sciences, sponsored by Kansas State University. The recipient of this award was Professor John Pluske. The presentations concluded with two very talented 2014 Anne Wexler Scholars, Australian Luke Bo'sher and American Molly Jones.

It was an honour to be joined by President Kirk H Schulz of Kansas State University and a senior delegation from the university to mark the inaugural year of two sponsored scholarships: the Distinguished Chair in Agriculture and Life Sciences and a Senior Scholarship which is open to any academic discipline. Kansas State University is the first US university to sponsor scholarships with the Australian-American Fulbright Commission and we are privileged to have their support.

Many of the Scholars attended the presentation with their families and this was a proud moment to share their remarkable achievement and mark the beginning of a new chapter as part of the Fulbright worldwide community.

The 2014 Australian-American Fulbright Presentation Dinner was supported by generous sponsors including Kansas State University, Queensland University of Technology, The University of Queensland, The Department of Defence, Science and Technology Organisation, Griffith University and Perpetual. The Commission

is extremely grateful for the support and confidence that our sponsors place in us.

The event was well-received in the wider community and media, with a large number of stories published across Australia profiling the remarkable achievements of the 2014 Scholars.

An Orientation Program for our new Scholars took place at the Sofitel Hotel, Brisbane over three days surrounding the Presentation Dinner. The Orientation Program was a wonderful opportunity for Australian Scholars to meet each other and exchange ideas with the U.S. Scholars. The Orientation program is designed to encourage cultural exchange, support the new Scholars as they embark on their Fulbright experience, to learn from the alumni and welcome them to the Fulbright community. A highlight of the program was an informal dinner on the *Kookaburra Queen* as we steamed up and down the Brisbane River, eating some great local food, and enjoying our time of fellowship together.

The Fulbright community is strongly supported by an active and engaged Alumni network. The Scholars were fortunate to benefit from the experience of the Alumni through a panel discussion. This provided the opportunity for the Alumni to share their experiences and for the Scholars to appreciate the impact that a Fulbright Scholarship can have on a career in the long term. The Commission also hosted an inaugural meeting with a number of notable alumni who are working with the Commission to introduce an Alumni Ambassadors Program to strengthen the connections further. Finally, the Annual General Meeting of the Australian Fulbright Alumni Association was held during the Orientation Program.

**4 September 2014**  
**65th Anniversary Celebration**  
**Canberra**

**18 – 20 February 2015**  
**Presentation Dinner & Orientation Program**  
**Perth**

## KEY DATES

Additional details on both events will be made available shortly



David Gwyther on board the R/V Nathaniel B. Palmer along the East Antarctic coastline

## 2013 Fulbright Postgraduate Scholar heads south

**David Gwyther is a PhD candidate at the University of Tasmania and a 2013 Fulbright Scholar. He is currently at the University of Texas at Austin, Institute for Geophysics. We spoke with David recently about his research. “Being in this line of research, I’m often asked if I’ve been to Antarctica. Well, I can now proudly say Yes!”.**

As part of his PhD, David has been researching the link between the Southern Ocean and the ice shelves that fringe Antarctica. His research uses computer simulations, run on supercomputers, to model how the ocean flows; transports

heat; and melts and freezes the floating ice shelves. Ice shelves are important as they restrict the flow of ice from Antarctica into the ocean, and thus are an important source of sea level change.

Texas may seem like a strange place to undertake Antarctic research, but the Institute for Geophysics has one of the best airborne geophysics programs in the world, which they’ve used to ‘look’ under the ice of Antarctica. The data acquired, such as ice thickness and ocean floor depth, is crucial to constraining the simulations David and his colleagues run producing a robust and accurate result. One of the main goals of David’s scholarship has been to exchange knowledge, data and modelling experience between the University of Tasmania research group and colleagues at the University of Texas. David described this

as an amazing opportunity, to not only strengthen existing collaborations but also to be a part of new and exciting research proposals.

A unique opportunity for David came in January 2014 when he was offered a berth on the American research icebreaker, the R/V Nathaniel B. Palmer, for a 6 week cruise from Hobart to the East Antarctic coastline. This is the particular region of East Antarctica that David had been focusing his research efforts on. Computer modellers don’t always get the chance to gain this type of practical experience and to David it has been invaluable. After some initial seasickness, David and the team were able to collect oceanography measurements (such as temperature, salinity and dissolved oxygen) which can help support and justify the modelling he has completed; surveyed the seafloor with multibeam sonar, and conducted extensive marine geology, that has shed light on the origins and history of this region of Antarctica. Of course there was also time to see seals, penguins, whales and some amazing sunsets and sunrises, as well as the Aurora Australis (being on the nightshift has its advantages apparently!).

David’s advice to other scholars would be to “expect the unexpected and be prepared to jump at opportunities that come your way. These opportunities aren’t necessarily what you planned for during your Fulbright exchange, but they will certainly benefit you”.

David wanted to acknowledge his PhD supervisors, Dr Ben Galton-Fenzi, Dr Jason Roberts, Dr John Hunter and Dr John Church at the University of Tasmania who encouraged him to apply for the Fulbright scholarship; Dr Don Blankenship and Jamin Greenbaum for their amazing support, new friends and colleagues at the University of Texas, Institute for Geophysics, the crew and friends he made aboard the R/V Nathaniel B. Palmer, and especially his wife for putting up with his 2-month absence!

## Suzanne Schultz: Entrepreneurial Woman

Suzanne Schultz, CEO Schultz Pharmacy Group, is the 2014 Fulbright South Australia Postgraduate Scholar. Suzanne has been recognized by the Commonwealth Bank Australia Women in Focus community as a BigBoldBrave Kudos winner. This is recognition by peers

in the business community for her drive, her successes and her commitment to a portfolio career as Board Director, Pharmacy Business Manager and PhD student. Suzanne will be heading to the Harvard School of Public Health as part of her Fulbright Scholarship for her

research focused on the growing problem of antibiotic-resistant bacteria and the threat to public health in the future. We look forward to following Suzanne in the coming years as someone whose goals and achievements span multiple sectors and congratulate her for being BigBoldBrave!

# A Top End Fishing Expedition: the sooty grunter

**Katherine Lacksen is a 2013 US Fulbright Scholar working with Professor Michael Douglas (a 2012 Fulbright Australian Scholar) at Charles Darwin University. We asked Katherine to describe for us her research fieldwork here in Australia which is focused on examining the movements of native fish in northern tropical rivers.**

Her story begins: the white LandCruiser we were following was barely visible weaving through the tall grass. Termite mounds stood like red tombstones beneath the white bark of the eucalyptus trees. As our convoy of researchers, rangers, and traditional owners travelled further into the Australian bush, a herd of wild brumbies galloped across the 4WD track. For more than an hour, we bounced along this rarely used track.

Difficulties with accessing sites and delays in receiving permits meant that my sample collection had to be postponed through the wet season.

The Jawoyn Rangers had promised me that we would catch fish here – in their secret spot – on the Fergusson River. All I needed were the tiny otoliths (earbones) from the sooty grunter.

Similar to a tree ring, the otolith reveals the age of the fish, but when combined with water chemistry data can also expose its movement patterns and history. Without understanding the movement and behaviour of the sooty grunter, as well as other aquatic species, it is difficult, if not impossible, to predict the implications that future dams or groundwater pumping could have on these freshwater ecosystems.

When we finally arrived at the Fergusson River, the Jawoyn rangers and traditional owners got down to business. They used simple \$5 hand lines and beef for bait. My colleagues and I used fancy fishing rods. They caught fish. We didn't even get a single bite! It may sound cliché, but during my time in Australia, and especially

in regards to fishing, I have learned the importance of 'Do as the locals do'.

Within 30 minutes at this 'secret spot', the group had pulled in sixteen sooty grunters. We took a break for lunch by the river, everyone sharing stories of the success and thrill of the past half hour. After ditching the expensive rod for the hand line, even I caught a fish! The initial delays and failed attempts to catch fish with other scientists had been overcome by collaborating with the Jawoyn people. I am thankful for their willingness to help and share their local knowledge.

The lunches on the riverbanks, with everyone sharing food, fishing techniques, and laughter, are among my favourite moments of my time in Australia. For me, it is a great visual analogy of my Fulbright experience. Learning about Country, connecting with locals, sharing stories – we have much in common.

We are all fishermen.

Katherine Lacksen on a research field trip in Kakadu National Park, Northern Territory



## 2014 Anne Wexler US Scholar: An Interview with Molly Jones



Molly Jones enjoying a unique Koala experience in Brisbane

**As an Anne Wexler Scholar, I am undertaking a Master in Public Policy at the Crawford School of Public Policy, Australian National University. My focus is on US foreign policy in the region, with Australia as a key partner in sustainability, trade and security.**

The school year got off to a challenging and invigorating start and I have successfully completed my first semester. Through my coursework I am broadening my knowledge and experience with policy and business in Australia and the broader Asia Pacific region. My professors and classmates have been a tremendous asset to this learning, as their thoughtfulness and perspectives have shed new light on many issues.

In addition, Canberra has proven itself to be an excellent place to study policy in Australia. I have taken advantage of numerous opportunities, such as serving as a delegate to Asia Pacific Week. This experience – being so closely connected to Australian policymaking – has been extraordinary. I also attended several great events with the Fulbright Commission, including the Fulbright Orientation in Brisbane and the Fulbright State Reception in the ACT.

In addition to my coursework, I am also undertaking a research project on the

shared challenge of water security for both the US and Australia. In this work, I have been privileged to meet with notable academics, Australian politicians, and US embassy officers. It is my hope that this effort will provide a meaningful contribution to sustainability in both Australia and the US.

Perhaps best of all has been a tremendous cultural experience in Australia. The culture within Australia is exciting and at times surprising. I have found Australians to be welcoming and eager to help me understand Australia as they experience it. Engaging with the people and culture has truly deepened my cultural understanding and admiration of Australia.

Although it has only been a short period of time, my experience so far has truly been life changing. I am so humbled and grateful to the Australian-American Fulbright Commission for providing me with this incredible opportunity.

## Professor Murray Loew

**2013 Inaugural recipient of the Fulbright Distinguished Chair in Advanced Science and Technology, sponsored by DSTO**

School of Engineering and Applied Science, at George Washington University

When I applied to the Fulbright program, I had no idea of what awaited me. I thought that I was coming to Adelaide and DSTO to hide and do some research. Yes, there had been a mention in the application material of giving talks at four universities, but I expected that those would be technical sessions with some of my peers in relatively small groups. And, yes, I knew that there were many Fulbright alumni around the world, including Australia, but I didn't realize that I would meet and quickly become friends with so many of them.

What I found was that there were public lectures in addition to the technical talks. There were receptions hosted by high-ranking university officials. There were dinners with many alumni. There were visits to the U.S. Embassy and a U.S. consulate. There were interviews. And, all of those events occurred all over the country! So, accompanied by my wife,

I traveled from Brisbane to Perth, Darwin to Hobart, and oh, yes, to Sydney, Melbourne, and Canberra.

We arrived in Adelaide in early February – in time for the Fringe Festival, an auto race, and numerous musical and theatrical events. We took this as a challenge: how many of these events could we attend, how many museums could we visit and cuisines could we try, while leaving some time for sleep and going to DSTO every day? It was an exciting and interesting introduction to the city and the country. As we began to travel we discovered the great variety of cultures, the Aboriginal history, and the spectacular topography of the country. Perhaps most remarkable was Coober Pedy for its pocked and tunneled Mars-like landscape and underground living.

There actually was some research getting done during this time, albeit interrupted by the travel. The group I was in at DSTO is working on the use of multiple sensors (such as cameras and radar) to better track objects on the ground, and in the air, water, and in space. My interest in imaging and image analysis fit well with their efforts, and I was able to contribute



to some of their current projects. The interaction led to several collaborations that will continue after I return home, and that should yield useful results.

I leave Australia with a real affection for the country, admiration for the technical people whom I was with at DSTO, and an appreciation of the contribution that the Fulbright program makes to bridge-building between America and the rest of the world. The enthusiasm and continued dedication to those ideals was evident in the alumni whom we met, as was their genuine and enthusiastic welcome of the new Scholars. There's a real fraternity among the alumni, and I'm looking forward to joining them.

# Fulbright Specialist Program

The Fulbright Specialist program is an initiative for Australian educational institutions to internationally enhance curriculum development, research and U.S. cooperation. The program provides a scholarship to an educational institution to host a U.S. specialist for up to 6 weeks. This includes an international economy airfare and US \$200 per diem honorarium.

Hosting a specialist from the U.S. and joining the Fulbright community can lead to many years of educational development, growth and success. Developing institutional curricula with input from international specialists provides competitive and educational edges for any educational institution.

**Specialists** from six different fields came to 8 separate educational institutions in Australia in 2013 and cited collaboration and curricula development as one of their main aims and objectives for projects in Australia. Each institution is undoubtedly richer for the experience and has now engaged and enhanced their own international network. U.S. specialists must be registered with the Council for International Exchange of Scholars (CIES).

Each educational institution must apply directly to the Australian-American Fulbright Commission.

**Applications opened on 1 July 2014 and applications close on 30 September 2014.**

Details to apply for the Fulbright Specialist Program can be found on our [website](#).



Clementine Mills, Madeleine Jones, Joshua Brennan in STC/ATYP's production of M.Rock ©Lisa Tomasetti 2014

## Sydney Theatre to San Francisco

On March 6, the 2014 Australian and U.S. Scholars were welcomed into the Fulbright community, including Lachlan Philpott recipient of the Inaugural Fulbright Inscription Professional Playwriting Scholarship, sponsored by Inscription and supported by the Copyright Agency Ltd., the Australia Council Literature Board and the Friends of Inscription.

Lachlan's new play M.Rock was performed at the Sydney Theatre in June. M.Rock is a magical new play, based on a true story, about the enduring joys of music, dancing and self-discovery. The generation gap just got tighter. In his distinctive language, Philpott charts the fortunes of 18-year-old Tracy and her grandmother Mabel. Tracy has just finished school, she's bought a round-the-world ticket and is flying away to soak up experiences. By contrast, Mabel is stable. She plays piano for The Players, knits for the African appeal and looks after Hilda's cat. A co-production with Sydney Theatre Company and directed by Fraser Corfield, M.Rock has been described as delightfully fresh, inter-generational theatre experience that challenges taboos and assumptions about age".

Lachlan will be moving to San Francisco to work with the The American Conservatory Theater. Lachlan told us "I see such a remarkable value in the opportunity to undertake a Fulbright Playwriting Scholarship in San Francisco. I feel immensely privileged to be the inaugural recipient of The Fulbright Professional Playwriting Scholarship and to work with

The American Conservatory Theater to create a new play for young audiences.

Lachlan has worked continuously as a writer, director, teacher and mentor in the theatre sector since his graduation from the Victorian College of the Arts in 1999. He was Artistic Director of 2 til 5 Youth Theatre Newcastle between 2004 and 2006 and effectively led its transformation to Tantrum Theatre. He transformed FRESH INK emerging writers program at the Australian Theatre for Young People between 2007 and 2010 making it one of the most effective emerging writers programs in Australia. Amongst his many accomplishments he also had over 50 productions in Australia, The UK, Ireland and Spain and nine plays published to date.

When we asked Lachlan about his motivation, he said "I write for and with young people because I have a strong belief that young people actually love coming together to experience theatre. The plays I write for young audiences challenge and respect them, offering them an experience they cannot get in any other place. In a world where technology can increasingly isolate people, theatre can bring young people together and engage them in ways which provokes them to question, empowers them to assess the world around them and forces them to look at themselves and beyond. I am convinced that the future of theatre lies in the positive engagement of young audiences and I hope that this project will contribute to new strategies for building audiences."

The *Fulbrighter* is the newsletter of the Australian-American Fulbright Commission. We welcome submissions for future editions, your comments and your feedback. If you would like to submit to the newsletter, please contact Dr Mary Kelly, Public Relations Manager

email [publicrelations@fulbright.com.au](mailto:publicrelations@fulbright.com.au)  
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**2015 Fulbright Scholarships**  
STUDY OR RESEARCH IN THE UNITED STATES



[fulbright.com.au](http://fulbright.com.au)

**FULBRIGHT SPECIALIST PROGRAM (FSP)**  
APPLICATIONS OPEN 1 JULY 2014 CLOSE 30 SEPTEMBER 2014



This program supports Australian educational institutions to host U.S. Specialists for 2-6 weeks visits as guest speakers, lecturers and/or collaborative researchers. The aim of this program is to develop curriculum, build research links and establish ongoing cooperation.

Australian educational institutions must apply for the grant through the Australian-American Fulbright Commission.

For more details on this Program

[click here](#)

## Sponsors

The Australian-American Fulbright Commission is supported by the Australian and United States governments, Australian and United States universities, the Australian Fulbright Alumni Association (AFAA) and the following sponsors:



## Donors

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