

The Fulbrighter

Australia

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An inspired, unique and irreplaceable gift



The Australian Ambassador Mr Michael Thawley (centre back) and Mrs Harriet Fulbright (fourth from right) with 1953/1954 U.S. Alumni

The first ever reunion of U.S. Fulbright Scholars to Australia was held in Washington DC on 18 September. The reunion brought together U.S. Alumni from 1953 through to 2003 for a range of nostalgic, poignant and entertaining activities. The weekend was also a celebration of the 50th anniversary for the 1954 Alumni.

“For me the Fulbright Program was an inspired, unique and irreplaceable gift”, stated Ambassador Thomas Pickering (1954 Fulbright Alumnus to Australia) in his presentation at the U.S Fulbright Alumni Reunion.



Ambassador Michael Thawley (left) Mrs Harriet Fulbright and Ambassador Thomas Pickering.

Saturday began with groups meeting for lunch with other Alumni from their decade. This was an ideal way to catch up with old friends and regain a perspective of their Australian experiences from across different fields and programs.

An afternoon session, *A Fulbright Affair: The Australian Experience* brought all the groups together and one Alumnus from each decade spoke about their experience in Australia. Their stories highlighted the diversity of the Fulbright experience and provided an intriguing historical perspective of Australia and the Fulbright Program over the past fifty-five years. Photos were compiled on a cd-rom and presented to each Alumnus, adding a rich visual perspective to the stories told.

The Australian Ambassador, Michael Thawley, welcomed Alumni and current Australian Fulbright Scholars to a formal dinner that evening. Also attending were representatives from the U.S. Department of State and other agencies involved in the Fulbright Program. Australian

Fulbright Scholar and jazz singer, Jo Lawry, once again gave a talented performance demonstrating the value of her Fulbright year at Purchase College in New York.

The Guest of Honour, Harriet Fulbright, introduced keynote speaker Ambassador Thomas Pickering. His speech gave an insightful and entertaining perspective of his Fulbright experience – what it meant to him and how it had changed his life. (An edited version of the Ambassador’s speech is on page 4).

Ambassador Pickering also launched an Endowment Fund Appeal, aimed to establish a Fulbright U.S. Alumni Award. This award will provide an extra scholarship for a talented young American to travel to Australia each year. For details on how to contribute, follow the links under ‘Alumni’ on our website at www.fulbright.com.au.

The reunion was such a success the Commission looks forward to developing further events with U.S Alumni and Australian Fulbright Scholars.



Update from the
Executive
Director
Mark Darby

It was a pleasure and honour to join the U.S. Fulbright Alumni at the Reunion Dinner and Seminar in Washington DC. As distinguished Alumnus, Ambassador Tom Pickering, stated the “..Fulbright Program is a program that truly changed our lives”. The reunion activities were a rich and exciting reminder of this as Alumni from across the decades reunited with old friends and shared insights into their diverse and rewarding experiences.

My thanks to the Fulbright Staff who did a great job in developing and implementing this event in co-operation with A Vista Events in Washington DC and our sponsors AED, Boeing and Southcorp.



Many thanks also to 1954 Fulbright Alumnus, Marty Klein, (*pictured above with Harriet Fulbright*) whose initiative and enthusiasm brought together so many of the 1954 Alumnus to celebrate the 50th anniversary of their travels to Australia. An exciting outcome of the Alumni

reunion was the launch of an appeal by Ambassador Pickering to establish a U.S. Endowment Fund and a Fulbright U.S. Alumni Award. I look forward to working with U.S. Alumni to develop this significant new fund and award.

The Commission, in co-operation with the Australian Alumni Association, is pleased to have finally launched the online Alumni Directory. I hope all Alumni have confirmed or updated their details on the Directory as we will be using this information for our postage of invitations and newsletters from 2005. We are excited about the opportunities this Directory will provide for Fulbright Alumni to maintain and expand their professional networks, and its potential to assist current Scholars make the most of their Fulbright experience.

In July the Commission farewelled Sandra Lambert who was a member of staff for three and a half years. Her enthusiasm and knowledge will be missed and we wish her well in her future endeavours. Kate Lyall (*pictured below*) joined the Commission in early August. We welcome Kate and look forward to working with her.



The Australian-American Fulbright Commission is pleased to launch its on-line
Fulbright Alumni Directory

If you are a Fulbright Alumnus and have not received information on how to register,
please contact fulbright@fulbright.com.au

Award Information for Australian and U.S. Applicants

Fulbright New Century Scholar Program

The 2005 Program topic is “Higher Education in the 21st Century: Global Challenge and National Response”. Applications to be submitted to the Fulbright Commission by 30 November 2004.

U.S. Postgraduate and Senior Scholar Awards

Applications for the 2005 U.S. Postgraduate and Senior Scholar Awards closed on 21 October 2004.

Australian Postgraduate, Postdoctoral, Professional and Senior Scholar Awards

Applications for the 2005 Australian Awards closed on 31 August 2004. Applications for the 2006 Awards will open on 1 June 2005.

U.S. Senior Specialist Program

Applications from Australian institutions for the 2005 U.S. Senior Specialists Program closed on 15 October 2004.

Fulbright Award Information

Details and application forms for all Fulbright Awards and Programs are available from www.fulbright.com.au

Autistic children and the power of music

U.S. Fulbright Postgraduate Robert Accordino is following his dream of pursuing a career as a paediatrician specialising in children with autism. During his 12 months of postgraduate work at the University of Queensland's School of Psychology, Robert will continue to explore the possibilities for improvisational music therapy to increase the socialisation of autistic children.

“During my undergraduate years at Princeton University and the time since graduation, I have been fascinated by the way individuals with autism hear. More specifically, the way they use their auditory processing abilities to navigate the domains of music and language has become the focus of my research.



Robert Accordino with Charlie Lagden, age 7. (Photo printed with permission)

My project is focussing on younger, lower functioning autistic children and analysing the ways that specifically selected music can influence their behaviors, communications, and socialisations

- all areas that are drastically affected by this neurological disorder. My prior research has suggested that higher functioning teenagers with autism may show auditory deficiencies affecting language, but still perform well on musical tasks. Through my work at Autism Queensland, I hope to see if these younger children show reactions to music that indicate they exhibit musicality similar to those higher functioning individuals with autism.

During my time here, I have presented my research at the Biennial Australian Autism Conference in Canberra, the University of Queensland, and a workshop on autism spectrum disorders with the Australian Psychological Society. I am enormously grateful to the Fulbright Commission for allowing me to carry out this valuable research project, which could lead to improved education of, and therapy for these children.



Robert Accordino (left), Paula Latos-Valier and Mark Freeman

In addition to my research, I have enjoyed exploring this vast and glorious continent. I have also very much enjoyed spending time with the other Queensland based Fulbrighters: Mark Freeman, Beth Covitt, Jon Miller, and Vanessa Adams.

In Sydney, Mark and I were lucky enough to meet up with Paula Latos-Valier, Fulbright Commission Board Member and General Manager of the Biennale of Sydney. We got to share several cultural experiences, from an organ recital to Yum Cha, and even a tour of the Biennale. My life here has been greatly enriched by those connected to Fulbright. The individuals I have met through this tremendous Program have been some of the most inspiring I have ever encountered. Thank you again for this unique and wonderful experience.”

26 August, Melbourne. VIC Alumni Chapter Dinner. Victorian based Alumni and Commission Board members joined with current Australian and U.S. Fulbright Scholars. Returned Fulbrighter Dr Iain Butterworth and 2004 Scholar John Provis both spoke at the Dinner.



Kevin Jackman, QLD Alumni Chapter Secretary (centre) at a farewell BBQ for U.S Fulbrighter Jon Miller (second right). Also pictured (from left to right) are U.S Fulbrighters Robert Accordino, Beth Covitt and Mark Freeman

18 September, Washington DC. Inaugural U.S. Alumni Reunion Seminar and Dinner.

21 September, New York. Welcome function Australian Consulate, New York for U.S. Alumni and Australian Fulbrighters.

21 October, Canberra. Annual Australian Alumni Association (AFA) reception hosted by U.S. Ambassador Mr Thomas Schieffer, in recognition of the AFA's support for the Fulbright Program and current Award recipients.

25 November, Canberra. Thanksgiving. Financial ACT Alumni are invited to Thanksgiving Dinner at the Chifley on Northbourne Hotel on Thursday 25 November. Various State Alumni Chapters are also organising Thanksgiving dinner gatherings. Please contact your State Chapter representative (contact details page 8) for further information.

*2004 Events
and
Occasions...*

The Fulbright Experience: The Impact on My Life and Career

Ambassador Thomas Pickering, 1954 U.S. Fulbright Alumnus to Australia, gave the keynote address at the U.S. Alumni Reunion Dinner on 18 September. The following is an extract of his words. An unedited copy of the Ambassador's speech can be found on the Australian Fulbright website.

"In a long career as an American diplomat, I've had more opportunities than I know to thank the Fulbright Program. In many countries where I served around the world, the Program was a mainstay of American diplomatic efforts to build stronger relationships locally.

I consider myself extremely fortunate to have had an early opportunity to benefit from the Program. Tonight, I want to talk about some of my reflections on, and experiences in, Australia. Perhaps many of these will match yours; perhaps they will not.

Many books and articles have been written about how Americans and Australians are alike. My experience in the country convinced me that we have many common threads of understanding. I also learned that we are different. And this helped me begin to know and understand people all around the world as a diplomat.

For many of us the Fulbright Program is a program that truly changed our lives.

I chose Australia and my project for many reasons. My project involved looking at how Australia developed the capacity to conduct foreign relations.

I was attracted to the Australian idea of independent study for an advanced degree. I looked forward to research without having to attend classes and the opportunity to develop a project which had meaning and interest for me. I found in Australia each of these reasons had true merit. I was also blessed by having taken a course from Professor Zelman Cowan, then head of the Melbourne University Law School, in my last year of U.S. graduate study. Back in Melbourne, he helped me put my project together and gave me some of his valuable time and advice while I was there.

Like most of us, I ended up crossing

two continents (for the first time), three oceans, and traveling around one world as a result of my Fulbright experience. My first months in Melbourne permitted me to have the good fortune to live in a university college for the summer. I was extremely fortunate to join Donald Seaman in the outer Melbourne suburbs for the remainder of the time. We found digs with a private family in their house, facing on a small back garden, in a Melbourne suburb near the end of a long trolley line.

I look back on many experiences with great fondness. Travel was one of them. Canberra had much to offer me in

over Europe beginning to make their way in this new country and even beginning to introduce some of their ideas and, believe it or not, their food tastes.

But we were oh so lucky to be Americans in the mid-50's in Australia. It was something to be welcomed almost everywhere. The huge debt that we owe to our older brothers, cousins, uncles and aunts, fathers and mothers, and others who went there in uniform in the 40's, is incalculable. One still sees many extensive signs of it continuing as I have noticed on later visits.

My years as a research student solidified my interest in working all over the world. It raised in me the sense of new opportunities out there in meeting new people and in new places, and indeed in the potential value of government service.

On a personal basis, for me the Fulbright Program was an inspired, unique and irreplaceable gift. The pleasure and the honor of meeting the Senator in later years, and some of the tension, pain and difficulty in testifying before him is only equalled by the pleasure I have had in meeting Harriet - and as an American Ambassador, being a kind-of unofficial "Godfather" to the Program in many of the countries where I served.



Ambassador Thomas Pickering presenting his keynote address at the U.S. Alumni Reunion Dinner, Washington DC.

terms of research for my project and interviews. Sydney and Brisbane were icing on the cake during early vacation periods. And I was lucky enough to make my way home via Adelaide and Perth.

I was particularly struck in my up-country travel with several facets of Australia. Hot tea on a hot day was not necessarily a bad thing. Cold beer anytime was welcome. Much of the countryside had a desolate air, populated as it was with standing dead trees, the product of ring-barking, obviously to promote more land and grass for the cattle and sheep. In those early years too, I was impressed by the growing flood of people from all

Australia and the United States have been friends for a long time, through good times and bad. Those of us who have lived there feel the common thread of this experience intimately. It is a great history that binds us. We have much in common, and we also have our differences. There is one strong common thread that increasingly stands out. It may touch only a limited number of people, but it does so in a way that makes a serious difference, not only for us as people, but for our two countries and their work together. That is the Program that sent us to Australia, that has brought many wonderful Australians to this country and that brings us here together tonight.

Yidaki-Wanga - speaking didjeridu

U.S. Fulbright Scholar Randin Graves, and indigenous performer and original didjeridu player from Yothu Yindi, Mr Milkayngu Mununggurr (*pictured*), recently entertained and educated audiences at the National Museum of Australia and the U.S. Embassy with talks and demonstrations on 'speaking' and playing the didjeridu.

Randin Graves fell in love with the sound of the didjeridu before he even knew what the instrument looked like. Later, after he had seen one, he made his own instrument from an old vacuum cleaner pipe!

"There is an irony in the fact that the didjeridu has become well-known around the world and now inspires outsiders to take an interest in Aboriginal culture. For most people, information about the instrument comes from sources rooted in modern popular thought rather than from Aboriginal tradition," says Randin. "Those who seek more accurate material are often disappointed."

Randin has made it his objective to provide that "accurate material" as he undertakes a Masters in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies at Northern Territory University, Darwin. He will study the instrument, research its origins and collate information about its manufacture

and playing techniques, and document the Yolngu vocabulary which describes its technique and sound characteristics.



The didjeridu originates from a small area of the 'Top End' bounded by Arnhem Land in the Northern Territory and the north-eastern Kimberleys. "What has been conspicuously lacking among didjeridu players around the world is an appreciation of the diversity and specificity of the instrument in its many traditional forms", says Randin. "My aim is to help Aboriginal people to proudly express their clan's individuality. I want to document and help Aboriginal people share a significant part of their musical culture which they are immensely proud of, but which the modern world has put at risk."

Chris Ryan - on the right road...

Chris Ryan (*pictured*) received the 2003 Fulbright Postgraduate Engineering Award, sponsored by Clough Limited. He recently returned from his successful year in the U.S.

"My last few months in Texas consisted of finalising and submitting my project on the development of computer software for more accurate hydrologic and hydraulic flood modelling. I am thrilled to have completed my PhD, but even more exciting is the prospect that this isn't the end of the road.



CSIRO in Australia have agreed that the software I have developed, 'CatchmentSIM', will be hosted and distributed through the Catchment Modelling Toolkit software project run by the Cooperative Research Centre for Catchment Hydrology (CRC-CH). This is

a collaborative software project, hosted at www.toolkit.net.au. It has thousands of members in Australia and around the world who regularly check the site for the latest tools for advanced hydrologic and hydraulic modelling. I'm delighted that the CRC-CH considers CatchmentSIM to be worthy of inclusion in this collection.

Apart from this, before leaving the U.S, I managed to fit in some essential sight seeing to New Orleans for the Jazz Festival. I also completed and obtained my pilot's license. I have begun a new job in Sydney in engineering consulting and while I am enjoying being home, I dearly miss my friends in Austin, Texas and will always have fond memories of my Fulbright experience."

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A Washington Adventure

Daniel Flitton received the 2003 Fulbright Professional Award in Australian and United States Alliance Studies, sponsored by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. He spent six months at the Centre for Australian and New Zealand Studies at Georgetown University in Washington DC. Here Daniel shares some of his Washington memories....



“...my advice to departing scholars....keep your program as flexible as possible, and take up any chance invitations along the way.”

Daniel Flitton

“Rain. Rain so heavy that the windscreen wipers can’t keep up. And in this torrent, I managed to drive a rental car from Philadelphia, down the back roads toward Washington DC, whizzing by Amish folks and their horse-drawn buggies, through the ancient fields of Civil War horror in Gettysburg, past the winding circles, lavish monuments and glorious bridges of the nation’s capital, right up to the door of Georgetown University — all without a map. Not bad, considering that everyone else kept driving on the wrong side of the road.

I spent six months in the United States over the first half of 2004, most of that time in Washington. For a student of international politics, this town truly is where it’s all happening. In an average week, I trooped off to the Brookings Institute to see Hillary Clinton one day, the next, down to the Library of Congress for a presentation by Henry Kissinger. The Lincoln Memorial and the splendid Capitol building merged into the political ambiance that clings to this city. Just over twenty years ago, a guy shot Ronald Reagan only a few steps from my apartment. Donald Rumsfeld, Defence Secretary, lived right around the corner. Motorcades kept screaming past, delivering the latest foreign leader up to the White House.

Of all the considered advice proffered by my dear friends and colleagues before I left home (“Won’t their accent drive you crazy?”, “Make sure you tell me what happens on Friends”, “Don’t get mugged”) one piece of wisdom proved invaluable - never knock back an invitation. My generous hosts at Georgetown University’s Center for Australian and New Zealand Studies kept me busy with appointments. I attended an Australian studies conference in Toronto, presented

a paper to the International Relations department at Boston University and attended Fulbright’s national conference in Washington. I spoke at Georgetown University and discovered rural America on a speaking trip to southern Texas. As my highlight, I presented to a round-table discussion panel at the State Department on the U.S factor in Australian politics.

A great perk of being on a Fulbright is that there is no shortage of receptions to attend. At one, to celebrate the re-establishment of the Fulbright Program in Iraq, I had the pleasure of meeting a woman who worked at one of the government agencies in Washington. We got talking and she, listening to my accent, wanted to know where I lived in Great Britain. “Australia,” I responded, understanding perfectly. For myself, at first I found it very difficult to tell the difference between a Texan and a New Englander. At least until I met one. “Oh,” she nodded. “The crocodile hunter.” Yes. That’s me.



Daniel Flitton (right) with a Ukrainian Fulbright Scholar, Washington DC.

Navigating these minor cultural barriers is a big part of the overseas experience, even in the U.S. So many things feel instantly familiar, partly because of the media exposure in Australia. Yet, just as Steve Irwin is no more typical of Australians than Britney Spears

is of Americans, so much is different. The Fulbright Program provides a wonderful opportunity to explore all these subtle and often surprising inter-cultural differences.

I wrote down many of my observations and subsequently published a number of articles for the Canberra Times, most relating to the Australia-U.S Free Trade Agreement, and several longer pieces in various academic journals, including the Griffith Review.

Symposium 2004 - Civil Military Cooperation and the War on Terror

The 2004 Fulbright Symposium was run by the University of Queensland from 5-7 July in Brisbane, QLD. Convenor Dr Alex Bellamy, from the School of Political Science and International Studies at the University of Queensland, believes that the three-day program successfully achieved its aim of creating a network of stakeholders who will continue to work on the intellectual and practical issues raised in a bi-national setting.

“Such a forum will contribute long-term to the effectiveness of civil-military cooperation in both ongoing military missions and broader ‘security sector reform’ processes” said Dr Bellamy.



University of Queensland Vice-Chancellor Professor John Hay (centre); with Symposium host Dr Alex Bellamy (right); Fulbright Commission Executive Director, Mark Darby (second right); and Symposium supporters Dr Elsin Wainwright and Dr Gordon Peake (far left).

The Symposium tackled such topics as; terrorism in the region and further afield, the impact of war on non-governmental organisations, homeland security, and the lessons learnt from peace operations.



General Peter Cosgrove, Chief of the Defence Force, speaking at the 2004 Fulbright Symposium.

Experts from a broad range of relevant areas addressed these issues, including General Peter Cosgrove, Chief of the Australian Defence Force; Mr Mick Keelty, Australian Federal Police Commissioner; Reverend Tim Costello, Chief Executive, World Vision Australia; and 2004 Australian Fulbright Scholar Dr Rodney Lyon, School of Political Science and International Studies, the University of Queensland.

The 2005 Fulbright Symposium is entitled *Peace and Human Rights Education*. It will be hosted by the University of Melbourne’s International Centre for Conflict Resolution and Faculty of Law and will run from 21-24 June 2005.

Imagining Australia

“Intelligent, far-sighted, and spirited, *Imagining Australia* promises to find its place among the select few books to have redefined our country.” Written by 2000 Australian Fulbright Scholar, David Madden, and three other young Australians, it “...offers a host of exciting new ideas to transform Australia into the quintessential twenty-first century nation”.

David Madden was born and raised in Canberra. He graduated from the Royal Military College and was an officer in the Australian Army before studying Arts and Law at the University of New South Wales.

At UNSW, David served as President of the Student Guild, and won the University Medal in History. He was awarded Fulbright and Frank Knox Scholarships to study at Harvard University, where he finished his law degree and completed a Master in Public Policy.

David has worked in the non-profit and business sectors in Australia, as well as for the World Bank in East Timor, and both the World Bank and the United Nations in Indonesia. He is currently working on the 2004 U.S. Presidential election campaign.

Photo caption:

Imagining Australia authors David Madden (seated) with (from left to right) Peter Tynan, Andrew Leigh and Mac Duncan.



Congratulations to Jonathan Wald (pictured above) for the success of his short film *What Grown-Ups Know*, which was selected for the prestigious Montreal World Film Festival in 2004.

A 2000 Fulbright Scholar, Jonathan received his Masters in film directing from UCLA Film School in Los Angeles. He is currently studying at the Australian Film Television and Radio School.



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Amelia Simpson - Alumni Vice-President

2001 Fulbright Scholar Amelia Simpson was appointed Vice-President of the Australian Alumni Association in May 2004. The Commission welcomes Amelia and looks forward to working with her and current AFA President, Greg Hunt.

“I spent two years in the United States as a Fulbright Scholar, studying at the Law School at Columbia University in New York. While there, I completed a Master of Laws and began working towards a doctoral degree. Having arrived in New York in July 2001, my studies were barely underway when the events of September 11 turned the law school community and the city upside down. When I think about that now I realise just what an amazing time it was to be living in the United States. I came away understanding and appreciating much more about American culture and values than I would have if I’d been there in happier times. Even so, it wasn’t long before New York bounced back to being every bit the energising, stimulating place I’d hoped it would be.

encourage my students towards graduate study in the United States. Deepening my involvement with the Fulbright Alumni Association is an ideal way to share more broadly my enthusiasm for the U.S. study experience and for the Fulbright Program.



I’m excited about taking on the Vice-President role and see it as an opportunity to meet and work alongside a diversity of inspiring Fulbrighters”.

Returning to Australia in 2003, and my dream job teaching constitutional law at the ANU Law School, I’m now doing all I can to

AUSTRALIAN FULBRIGHT (Alumni) ASSOCIATION

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