

# the fulbrighter



## Enhancing Fulbright Alumni Engagement

2016 will see increased Alumni engagement for Fulbright, as the Commission launches a number of new strategies to connect with our past Fulbrighters, share their stories and create new opportunities for Fulbright collaboration.

The Fulbright Alumni Honour Boards represent an exciting initiative, encouraging Australian and American Universities to showcase their Fulbright Alumni via online profiles that display their achievements. The full lists will be also be viewable on the Fulbright website in 2016.

The new Fulbright Ambassadors Program aims to find distinguished members of the Australian-American Fulbright Program to represent the Commission and participate in activities across Australia and the U.S.

The Fulbright Alumni Initiative Grant (FAIG) will also be available this year to support further institutional collaboration for eligible Fulbright Alumni.

Read on in this issue to find out more about our Alumni Engagement initiatives.

### From The Executive Director



As part of our ongoing Alumni engagement strategy, we are seeking to strengthen and enhance the ways in which we communicate with our Alumni via two exciting new initiatives in 2016 - the Fulbright Ambassadors Program and the Fulbright Honour Boards.

Both of these initiatives will serve to highlight the contributions that our Alumni have made to education, research and industry, as well as provide further opportunities to engage with Fulbright activities.

We hope that you will join us in celebrating our Alumni in 2016, and continue to support the Commission in our mission, not only to foster binational educational exchange between Australia and the United States, but to facilitate enduring engagement and collaboration long after each Scholar has returned to their home institution.

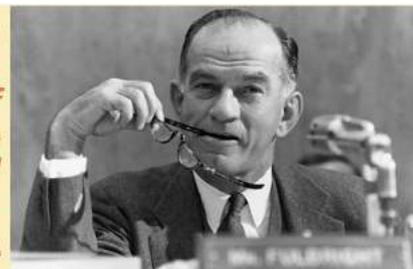
I look forward to seeing all of our supporters at the upcoming Fulbright Presentation Evening on February 25 in Melbourne to celebrate the success of our Australian and American Scholars.

*Tangerine Holt*

Dr Tangerine Holt

*“Educational exchange can turn nations into people, contributing as no other form of communication can to the humanizing of international relations.”*

Senator J. William Fulbright, 1983



## Fulbright Featured Alumni Ms Pamille Berg AO Hon FRAIA



Pamille received a Fulbright Postgraduate Scholarship in Ancient Art and Archaeology at the University of Virginia, Charlottesville (1977).

She is the Director of Pamille Berg Consulting Pty Ltd and has been responsible for integrated public art programs for over 30 years in Australia, Asia, and the USA.

She served as a Director of Mitchell/Giurgola & Thorp Architects in Canberra, Sydney, and Singapore for over 14 years, acting as the firm’s coordinator for the \$13 million Parliament House Art Program (1982–1988). Pamille was the Chair of the Visual Arts/Craft Board of the Australia Council and a member of the Council (1991–1994). In 2002 she was made an Honorary Fellow of the Royal Australian Institute of Architects.

In 2004 Pamille was appointed to the Order of Australia for her service to public art in Australia, particularly with emerging artists and indigenous artists in remote communities.

[Learn more](#) about this Fulbright Alumna.

**DEFENCE RENEWS SPONSORSHIP OF THE FULBRIGHT DISTINGUISHED CHAIR IN ADVANCED SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY**

The Defence Science and Technology (DST) Group has just renewed its sponsorship of the Fulbright Distinguished Chair in Advanced Science and Technology for a further three years from 2017 to 2020. This will allow an additional three distinguished American scientists and engineers to work with their Australian counterparts at DST Group over that time.

The new sponsorship agreement represents a major vote of confidence in the Fulbright Program and it will continue and expand the close and mutually advantageous relationship between the Fulbright Commission and the Commonwealth of Australia.

The sponsorship of the Fulbright Chair in Advanced (Defence) Science and Technology appoints a distinguished international researcher to DST Group, or a DST Group Affiliate, to undertake a research project or study in a priority area of basic research for DST Group, engage with DST Group staff through seminars and workshops and explore long term collaborations and linkages. This also assists in further mutual understanding between Australia and the U.S. through research and cultural exchange.



(Left to right) Dr Alan Hinge, DST Group; Ms Bettina Malone, U.S. Embassy; Dr Len Sciacca DST Group; Dr Tangerine Holt and Dr Ruth Lee Martin, Australian-American Fulbright Commission

The final outcomes will be included in several journal papers currently under preparation. The current DST Group work has received additional funding and, consequently, will continue for the next financial year. Future proposals for the continuation and expansion of these efforts are being planned.

In addition to the Distinguished Chair Public Lecture Series,, helping to promote the Fulbright program and participating in its informational sessions, Richard and Murray also gave several technical and focused presentations across Australia. As a consequence, they have made several useful contacts across Australia that are anticipated to lead to close collaborations in the near future.

The 2015 Distinguished Chair is Professor Douglas Cochran, School of Electrical, Computer & Energy Engineering, Arizona State University. His research relates to 'Emerging Mathematical and Algorithmic Methods in Electronic Support, Remote Sensing and Surveillance' and his main collaborator is Dr Songsri Sirianunpiboon of DST Group's Cyber and Electronic Warfare Division, which is based in Edinburgh, South Australia.

Professor Cochran will conduct collaborative research with investigators in DST Group to develop new mathematical and statistical understanding of problems in remote sensing and to manifest practical algorithms that embody these theoretical advances.

As well as giving several technical presentations across Australia, Professor Cochran will be delivering several general Fulbright lectures and will be helping to promote the Fulbright Program. Of course, we will keep you informed of the times, dates and location

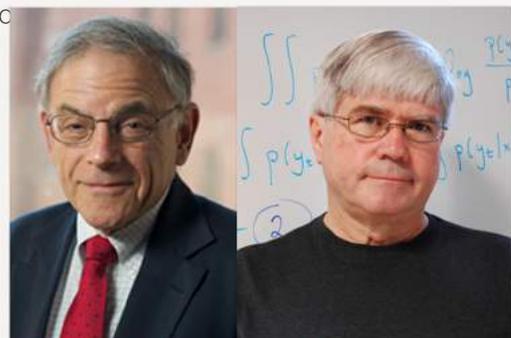


2014 Fulbright Distinguished Chair in Advanced Science & Technology, Sponsored by Defence Science & Technology Group, Professor Richard Ziolkowski lecturing at Curtin University in 2015

Through its sponsorship, which began in 2012, DST Group has received, high level expertise and relevant research collaboration from distinguished U.S. scientists, use of research material and outcomes, widespread recognition as a sponsor at related functions, dinners, presentations and information events, and several opportunities to promote the defence science and technology brand.

These benefits are demonstrated through the work of the 2013 and 2014 DST Group scholars, Professor Murray Loew, of the School of Engineering and Applied Science, at George Washington University, and Professor Richard Ziolkowski of the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, University of Arizona.

Professor Loew's research involving the fusing of infrared and visible imagery with radar data to improve the tracking and detection of moving objects has led to vital improvements in technology with diverse applications ranging from cancer detection to surveillance. Professor Ziolkowski's work with metamaterials included the development of various cutting-edge electromagnetic devices including an electrically small antenna, and an electromagnetic absorber.



2013 and 2015 Fulbright Distinguished Chairs in Advanced Science & Technology, Sponsored by Defence Science & Technology Group, Professor Murray Loew (left) and Professor Douglas Cochran (right)

# 2016 Fulbright Ambassadors Program

The Australian-American Fulbright Commission recognises the passion, prestige, contribution and significant impact that our Fulbright stakeholders bring to the Fulbright Program and the wider community, locally and internationally.

The Fulbright Ambassadors Program is an exciting flagship initiative which has been developed to enhance the Commission's strategic engagement with ALL stakeholders across Australia and the United States.

A yellow banner with the Fulbright logo at the top left. The text reads: "Become a FULBRIGHT AMBASSADOR Applications welcome between 8 JANUARY - 7 FEBRUARY 2016 CLICK HERE for more information". The background features a stylized map of Australia and stars.

**FULBRIGHT**  
AUSTRALIAN-AMERICAN  
FULBRIGHT COMMISSION

Become a  
**FULBRIGHT AMBASSADOR**

Applications welcome between  
**8 JANUARY - 7 FEBRUARY 2016**

[CLICK HERE](#) for more information

A distinguished group of individuals will be selected by the Commission's Board of Directors annually to influence, engage and connect with Fulbright applicants, scholars, alumni, sponsors, partners and other stakeholders.

If you are a leader who is passionate about the Fulbright Commission's mission and vision; demonstrates initiative and wants to serve as part of a team, we want to hear from you!

The Commission will be accepting applications for Fulbright Ambassadors until **February 7, 2016**. Please send any enquiries to Fulbright Alumni Relations Manager, Dr Pablo Jimenez via email at [Alumni@fulbright.com.au](mailto:Alumni@fulbright.com.au)

## Fulbright Alumni Honour Boards - Call for Information

For over 66 years, the Commission has supported and encouraged academic excellence, innovation and creativity through its Scholarship Program.

Over the past few months, the Commission has contacted all Australian universities. Their response has been overwhelmingly supportive and we have updated lists ready to go online. However we would like to present not only the names, but also the faces of Fulbrighters.

The multiplier effect of intellectual exchange fostered by the Fulbright Program transforms Scholars' lives and careers, and creates far-reaching and long-lasting institutional ties.

The Commission now requests a photo of all of our Alumni between 200 and 1000 pixels wide (the height may vary), as well as up to three affiliations with Australian universities. The name and photo will appear on the corresponding Fulbright Honour Boards on our website.

We would like to showcase Fulbright Alumni connected with Australian universities and other organisations (such as the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation or CSIRO, or the Department of Defence, Defence Science and Technology Group or DSTG).

Kindly send this information to [Alumni@fulbright.com.au](mailto:Alumni@fulbright.com.au) by **12 February, 2016**.

The purpose of this initiative is to highlight the excellence in education, research and cultural exchange of the Fulbright Program at those institutions.

## 2016 Fulbright Alumni Initiative Grant (FAIG) and Alumni Engagement Innovation Fund (AEIF)

Applications for this year's **Fulbright Alumni Initiative Grants** open on 1 February 2016. We encourage all eligible Fulbright Alumni to apply for this grant and continue developing your collaborative research networks. The aim of the Fulbright Alumni Initiative Grant is to help build the individual Fulbright experience into long term organisational partnerships and linkages. The grants support any activities which achieve both short and long terms objectives of ongoing institutional collaboration. To be eligible, applicants must be Alumni of the Australian-American Fulbright Program, and not previously have received a Fulbright Alumni Initiative grant.

In 2015, grants were awarded to four Alumni: Professor Jill Thistlethwaite (2014), Professor John Foster (2009), Professor Iona Novak (2013) and Mr Hyatt Frobose (2010) to assist collaborative research efforts in vital fields of research including cerebral palsy, interprofessional education, and peripheral nerve repair.

The U.S. State Department created the **Alumni Engagement Innovation Fund** in 2011 to support alumni initiatives that promote shared values and innovative solutions to global challenges. The competition provides grants to teams of past and current participants of U.S. government-sponsored exchange programs (such as Fulbright) to carry out public service projects that utilise skills and knowledge they have gained through their exchange experiences. In 2015, 48 grants of up to USD \$25,000 were awarded to alumni teams worldwide to support their public service projects. Applications open 9 February and close 9 March 2016.

See [our website](#) for information on how to apply for these grants.

## Scholar Snapshots

### Mike Webster - Scientist of the Natural Laboratory

Birds and other animals use an array of signals, such as loud songs and colorful plumage displays, to communicate with each other. Variation in these signals is important to the process of speciation, as they affect the likelihood that closely related species will inter-breed. Australia is a rich “natural laboratory” for exploring these ideas because a number of closely related species are in the early stages of diverging from each other, and my Fulbright experience has allowed me to develop a research project to explore these ideas in collaboration with a number of top Australian researchers.



2015 Fulbright U.S. Senior Scholar Mike Webster examines an Australian superb fairy-wren (*Malurus cyaneus*) during a fieldwork excursion in Western Australia

First, I was able to spend two months doing fieldwork in Western Australia, where I collected data and samples from genetic analyses from a number of bird populations. These collecting expeditions spanned two different “contact zones” where two closely related species come together. Samples collected for genetic analyses, and also data on variation in song and plumage signals, will be taken back to the lab to examine how both vary within and across these sister species, which will shed light on the role that the signals do or do not play in preventing interbreeding and gene flow between these sister species.

Moreover, close interactions with colleagues in Australia has catalyzed a meeting of research groups from four different universities, all working on the same group of bird species, to develop a large cross-university comparative project that will yield insights far beyond those that could be obtained by any single research group working alone.

Second, in a related but somewhat different vein, my visit to Australia has also led to development of new opportunities in the use of “biodiversity media” for scientific research. These sorts of media – such as audio recordings of birdsongs and video recordings of display behaviors – have long been collected and stored in specialized scientific archives; think of a natural history museum that has recordings, rather than skins and bones, as specimens. These recordings capture the behavior of animals in the wild, and in recent years there have been huge advances in digital collection of these recordings as well as high-powered approaches to analyzing them. Yet accessibility of the recordings remains a challenge because, even today, many of the archives are separated and independent of each other, meaning that researchers must comb through a number of sources to find the recordings that they need. By developing partnerships across archives, though, we can begin to address this challenge (e.g., through federated websites). While here in Australia, I am exploring one such partnership between the largest such archive in the US – the Macaulay Library at Cornell University (where I am the Director) – and the largest such archive in Australia – housed at the Australian National Wildlife Collection in Canberra. A strong partnership between these two leading institutions will serve as a model for others, potentially leading to a large international collaboration.

SAVE THE DATE

2016 Fulbright Scholar  
Presentation Evening

THURSDAY 25 FEBRUARY 2016

The RACV Club, MELBOURNE



#### Key Dates

- **Fulbright Ambassadors Program**  
Applications open 8 January - 7 February 2016
- **Fulbright Honour Boards**  
Call for information ends 12 February 2016
- **2016 Fulbright Scholar Presentation Evening**  
25 February 2016, RACV Club Melbourne
- **Fulbright Alumni Initiative Grant**  
Applications open 1 February - 30 April 2016
- **Fulbright Alumni Engagement Innovation Fund**  
Applications open 9 February - 9 March 2016

#### Contact

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 send your enquiry to Alex Maclaurin, Communications & Events Officer.

**E:** [public.relations@fulbright.com.au](mailto:public.relations@fulbright.com.au)

We encourage all Fulbright Alumni and stakeholders to connect with us and update your contact details.

**E:** [alumni@fulbright.com.au](mailto:alumni@fulbright.com.au)

Stay in touch via social media too!

