

The Fulbrighter

A U S T R A L I A

Canberra sets the stage for the Fifth Enrichment Seminar

The fifth annual Enrichment Seminar was held in Canberra, 16-18 February and brought together thirteen U.S. Fulbright scholars currently studying in Australia.

The Enrichment seminar aims to further the experience of U.S. Fulbright scholars through a program of networking with business, government and academic representatives and the Australian Fulbright community.

Bill Stanton, U.S. Embassy, Deputy Chief of Mission (DCM), hosted a cocktail reception for the U.S. scholars in his rose garden where they discussed their study agendas and ambitions. Bill Stanton congratulated each of the scholars on their Fulbright Award and officially presented each of them with a Fulbright certificate and pin.

Other highlights of the seminar included a dinner hosted by the Fulbright ACT Alumni Association and an afternoon in Parliament House watching 'Question Time'.

Dr Virginia Brooks, from Oregon Health and Science University, attended the Seminar. Dr Brooks is an expert in the field of hypertension and is working with Dr Roger Dampney, at the University of Sydney.

Dr Brooks writes, "I am a scientist with little time to do more than scratch the surface of the political underpinnings of policy and public affairs. The opportunity to witness 'Question Time' in the Australian Parliament House was definitely the most exciting aspect of the seminar for me.

Witnessing the diversity (at multiple levels) of the Fulbright scholars was an interesting and unexpected benefit. It was also a treat to meet the U.S. Embassy staff and Australian Fulbright Alumni.

The reception at the Deputy Chief of Mission, Bill Stanton's residence was lovely and the opportunity for a face-to-face discussion with the DCM Stanton was very unique.

The visit to the National Museum was very informative and stimulated discussion about the core values, peoples and places of Australia."

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U.S. Deputy Chief of Mission, Bill Stanton (far right) and 2004 U.S. Fulbright scholars

ED News



Executive Director, Mark Darby

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you to the new look of The Fulbrighter, an image that will be carried to all Fulbright publications, information brochures and web-site later this year.

The image has been developed in consultation with Canberra based agency, MA@D Communication and our first Public Relations/Media Officer, Heather Rietdyk.

Heather is a graduate of the University of Canberra and spent the past year working on Capitol Hill in Washington DC for Congressman Sam Farr and within the media unit at the Democratic National Convention in the Fleet-Center, Boston. Heather replaces Melinda Hunt, our Executive Assistant for the past three and a half years.

In December, the Commission also welcomed Lyndell Wilson as Program Manager, she replaces Jude Gamble. Lyndell was previously a Client Business Manager for IDP Education Australia and Deakin Prime in Canberra. She is a graduate in Music from the University of Canberra and was also an AFS student to Minnesota.

Our thanks to Melinda and Jude for their valued contribution to the Fulbright Commission; I wish them all the best in their move to Sydney.

During the past few months the Fulbright Commission has focused on the selection of Australian and U.S. Fulbright Award recipients for 2005. Our thanks to the State and National Selection Committees who reviewed numerous excellent applications, interviewed candidates and deliberated at length over the final decisions.

The quality of applicants remains very high with students and scholars demonstrating both academic excellence and a high level of performance and commitment to their professional field. A list of the 2005 Australian and U.S. Fulbright Scholars will be printed in the June edition of The Fulbrighter.

We are excited to invite you all to the 2005 Fulbright National Awards Dinner at the University of NSW on Thursday 19 May. This will be the last year that the Awards Dinner will be held in Sydney for a while, as we look to share the dinner with other states in future.

The dinner will honour this year's talented group 2005 Australian Fulbright Scholars and will feature a performance by Aleksandr Tsiboulski, classical guitarist, recipient of the 2005 Visual and Performing Arts Award.

Thank you: On behalf of the Fulbright Commission our thanks to departing Board member David Benn, who has served on the Fulbright Commission Board for the past five years and as Chair for the last two years. David's skills and enthusiasm have guided an exciting period of change for the Fulbright Commission.

Returned Scholars

Yin Carl Paradies Fulbright ATSIIC Postgraduate Scholar 2003

Yin completed a Masters of Public Health at the University of California, Berkeley and has returned to the Northern Territory to continue working on his PhD in Indigenous Health with the Menzies School of Health Research from the University of Melbourne. Yin is currently co-facilitating a Menzies School short course in Darwin, with his partner Emma Kowal, on *Race, Culture, Indigeneity and the Politics of Public Health*.



Yin Carl Paradies

Achievements

Allen Weinstein

Allen Weinstein, a Fulbright Scholar to Australia in 1969 and again in 1972, was sworn in as the ninth Archivist of the United States, leading the National Archives and records Administration (NARA), by Senator Richard Lugar on February 16, 2005.

Dr Weinstein is a noted scholar and Professor of History and a recognised leader in global democracy issues. Most recently he was a senior advisor at the International Foundation for Election Systems (IFES) and from 1985-2003 he was president and CEO of the Centre for Democracy.

Jonathon Wald

Jonathon Wald, a Fulbright Scholar to Australia in 2001, conducted research at the Australian Film Television and Radio School, Sydney.

He has recently released a short film titled "What Grown-ups Know". Jonathan Wald's film has been acquired for worldwide distribution by US-based Big Film Shorts, which represents Academy-Award winner Harvie Krumpet.

Writer-director Wald commented, "I grew up in America, watching Australian films instead of Hollywood films. Recognition like this for my Australian film work reinforces my decision to make my home here - it's great to see that my immigrant version of Australian stories appeals to audiences all over the world."

The recent deals cap an incredibly successful run for the film which was shot in country NSW in 2002. The film premiered at the Mardi Gras Film Festival in 2004, and since then has screened at over 40 international film festivals, including Short Cuts Cologne, Palm Springs International Short Film Festival, Hof International, and Slamdance. "What Grown-ups Know" screens in May at the St. Kilda Film Festival.



Director Jonathon Wald and Susie Lindeman on-set

Fulbright hands provide Tsunami Relief



Dr Ranjana Srivastava, 2004 Australian Fulbright Scholar

Ranjana Srivastava, 30, is an Australian doctor of Indian descent who is studying at the University of Chicago as the recipient of the 2004 Fulbright Postgraduate Alumni (WG Walker) Award.

Through her life experiences, Ranjana not only had the desire to become a doctor, but a doctor ingrained with compassion and the moral obligation to serve the emotional needs of her patients as well as their families.

Ranjana has seen first hand the inequities of healthcare and believes 'that to have lived and worked within an impoverished society and then to turn a blind eye is unconscionable'.

Following the news of the tsunami Ranjana moved quickly to become involved in medical assistance. This is her story.

(Adapted from TimeAsia April 4, 2005 Vol. 165, No.13 First Person: The Essentials of Aid - An Australian doctor relates her experience)

"I was visiting my parents in Bihar, India, when I heard about the tsunami. I headed to the Maldives, posted by Britain's Commonwealth Service Abroad Programme to Buruni, an island 24 hours by boat from

the capital, Malé. Coral reefs had protected the Maldives from the full force of the tsunami, sparing all but 108 people. Although no one on Buruni died from the tsunami, conditions were primitive, and its isolation meant that getting prompt assistance was impossible. I was to be the only doctor on the island, looking after some 1,500 people.

Most of those people came from nearby Vilufushi, an island where 17 people had perished and where every house had been reduced to rubble. Buruni's residents welcomed these refugees, and the population tripled overnight. People were living 30 to 50 to a house; one that I visited had 71. Sanitation was a nightmare. Dozens of people shared one bathroom and, as generosity understandably ebbed among the hosts, tensions ran high: I saw one old woman beg to use a toilet at 10 houses.

The situation at my health clinic was cruelly ironic. It employed 14 staff—all local except for me and an Indian nurse, and all constantly busy with never-ending paperwork. Registers were signed, lists shuffled, forms designed, faxes sent, drugs adjusted and readjusted on shelves. A patient was registered outside, then again a minute later on entering my clinic. My diagnosis and prescription were recorded, then the patient went outside and all the details were recorded again in yet another book. Despite this, I rescued many patients about to walk out with either the wrong drug or the wrong quantity.

The pharmacy was paved with so many cartons of humanitarian relief that I could no longer enter the room. It was a striking display of foreign generosity, yet the rationale for what had been dumped here was sometimes hard to decipher. Chest-drainage systems, blood-transfusion sets and oxygen tubing lay about, irrelevant in this basic environment.

In my first few days, I made a list of essential drugs of which we needed more—tetanus shots, antibiotics, antifungal creams, local anaesthetic, and pain relievers—and faxed it to local medical authorities, who promised

quick delivery. Weeks later, after many more requests, the supplies still had not arrived.

Meanwhile, children limped in the streets with pus-filled wounds sustained during the tsunami and aggravated by a lack of medical attention; anaemic women were too weak to have a conversation; and men, injured as they tried to build shelters, cried for relief from welding burns and nails embedded in their flesh.

A pharmacy overflowing with aid, a population suffering from disease, yet it was a lucky day when the two met.

Now that I have completed my six-week stint on Buruni and am back studying in Chicago, I keep wondering: What should have been done differently? I have found some consolation in the first lesson I learned when I was at medical school: the human body has a remarkable capacity to heal. I repeated this mantra to distressed parents, anxious teachers and suffering patients alike. But most of all, I repeated this to myself, after another long day of battle fought, and lost, on Buruni."

I express my sincere appreciation to the Australian-American Fulbright Commission for the enthusiastic support I received during my relief work. Knowing that I had the Commission's backing in taking time out of my fellowship was important to me in committing myself fully to an important task.

When I launched the boat appeal, members of the Australian Fulbright network pledged their support promptly and generously. Thanks to a remarkable international response, I now have the funds to not only purchase the boat, but to support its running and maintenance for the next few years while the islanders renew their livelihood.

Thanks to all, Ranjana

Manhattan streets tune in

Kirsty Guster received a Fulbright Post-graduate Award in Visual and Performing Arts sponsored by Anthony Joseph Pratt in 2001 and completed a Master's program in piano performance at the Manhattan School of Music (MSM).

Following her Fulbright experience, Kirsty then conducted a year's internship with the "Music and the Brain" program, which consisted of specialised teacher training and research, exploring the relationship between cognition and early music education.

Kirsty shares her story:

"The journey that I began as a Fulbright Scholar four years ago has been life changing. I have come to truly understand that the Fulbright Award is a unique and precious gift, whose value has unlimited and ongoing potential."

For those who have experienced the [Fulbright], the opportunities for professional and personal growth are inspiring, even overwhelming at times. This is equally true of the ambassadorial role that comes with a [Fulbright] and the combined feeling of great privilege and responsibility.

I can now fully appreciate the need for cultivating international understanding and improved communication (my memories of being in Manhattan during "9/11" are a powerful and ongoing reminder). This includes having a greater insight into the enormous value of cultural exchange. As the word implies, it is a process of give and take, and must have at its heart, two crucial elements; a confidence in the value of what you can give; and a willingness to receive, learn, and grow from what you take.

Professionally, I spent my first two years completing a Masters program in piano performance at MSM. It was my privilege to study with two internationally renowned piano teachers, Phillip Kawin and Nina Svetlanova, both whom possessed unique insights into technical and musical aspects of piano playing.



Kirsty Guster, Australian Fulbright Scholar 2001, entertains the streets of Manhattan while wheeling home her new piano

Outside of the private lessons there was a great deal to be learnt in other music classes, through interacting with the wealth of talented international students and educators, and by simply being a part of the interesting Conservatoire environment. It was here that I discovered just how many hours I could work in a day, and came to terms with the fact that there would always be someone who could do more!

I was one of over 200 pianists who shared the (far fewer) small practice rooms of the MSM building, though apart from those who regularly trickled outside on the hour for a smoke break, they were rarely to be seen. When I found the opportunity to escape this frenzied practice mentality, I had some awe inspiring experiences listening to a range of internationally renowned musicians. I had nights at Carnegie Hall, the Lincoln Center, Merkin Hall, the Opera (including, with great pride, Baz Luhrmann's production of La Boheme on 42nd Street) and my first real experiences with jazz on the Lower East Side and cabaret on the Upper West. The New York music scene was everything I could have imagined, and was, perhaps, equally as instructive as my formal education.

After completing my Masters Degree, I was incredibly fortunate to be introduced to the director of the non-profit program called "Music and the Brain", Lisha Papert-Lercari.

While a change of focus was not planned, I went on to broaden my musical horizons, spending a year of 'academic training' exploring the relationship between early childhood music education and improved cognitive skills, through both specialised teacher training and research. I was incredibly lucky to be invited to spend my final year away in Paris, developing and directing this program within the unique context of the international, Bilingual Montessori School. This last year gave me a rare opportunity to further my international outlook before returning to Australia.

I will continue my journey as a musician in Australia with the confidence and openness to keep asking questions! It is with this aim in mind that I am about to begin a PhD in music at the Queensland Conservatorium at Griffith University, exploring the way in which piano pedagogues, and students, approach the intangibles of music.

I am extremely grateful to the Fulbright Commission for all that this Award has given me, and sincerely hope that my achievements and contributions in the future may be worthy of the opportunities I have had.

The Dung Down-Under

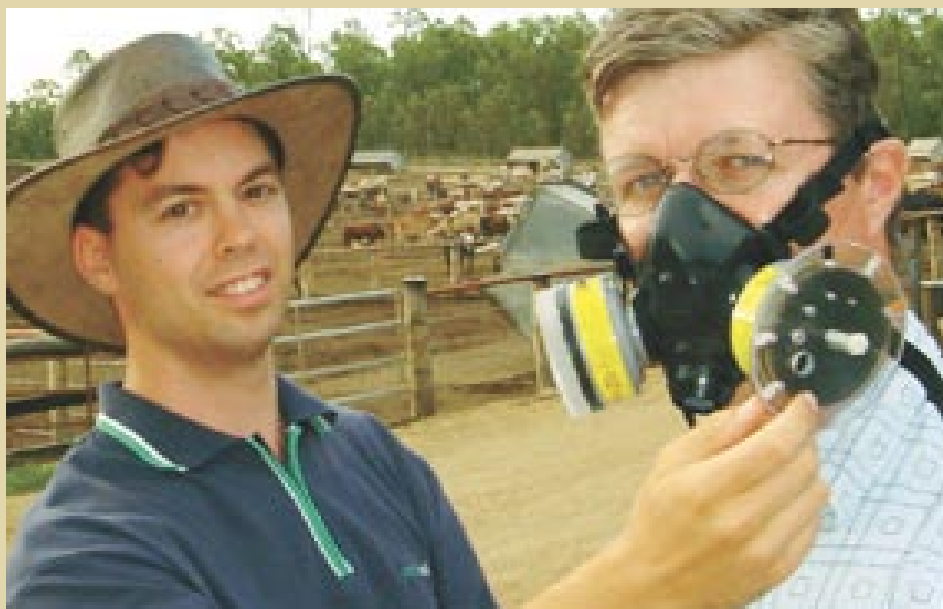
Chris Henry U.S. Fulbright Postgraduate Scholar 2004

Chris Henry, an Extension Engineer and PhD candidate from the University of Nebraska, is using his Fulbright Award to undertake research in air quality for livestock operations at the National Centre for Engineering in Agriculture, at the University of Southern Queensland in Toowoomba.

"Helping people understand livestock odours and the impact they have on their daily lives is the goal of my work here."

In association with research leaders, Chris and his colleagues have gained a new perspective on modeling odours and regulation of livestock operations, as well as generating further discussion into intensive livestock's impact on society and the environment.

"...The Fulbright experience has created invaluable relationships with colleagues in government, private industry, and academia that will, no doubt, continue throughout my professional career."



Chris Henry (left) and Ian Craig in the field, Toowoomba QLD

As a long-term goal, Chris is looking forward to developing a tool which will educate livestock entrepreneurs and community planners about the risk of experiencing odours from new and expanding livestock operations. Its importance will be highlighted through the ever-increasing problem of urban dwellers moving to and infringing upon the rural landscape.

"Australia is a long way from my family farm in Kansas. I have learned about Australian culture, language, land use, history, agriculture, and how to crack a stock whip."

"I have learned more about my own country in the two months I have been abroad, than I had learned in the last 30 years living in it."

Acting out Australia's methodology

D Ross U.S. Fulbright Postgraduate Scholar 2004

"Since actors and directors are extremely protective of their rehearsals, I feel privileged to be able to gain access to study the dynamics and purpose of the rehearsal process."

D Ross is a graduate in Theatre Studies from the University of Michigan – Ann Arbor and through her Fulbright Award is conducting research in the new field of rehearsal ethnography.

D Ross was drawn to the Centre for Performance Studies at the University of Sydney as the only place in the world that 'had developed a methodology, an ethics and an institutional framework to support and archive the study of rehearsals'.

In 1999, Gay McAuley at the University of Sydney, published a book titled, *Space in Performance*. McAuley's descriptions of actors and directors in rehearsal represented a significant departure from typical studies of finished performances.

McAuley's methods are extremely rare and inspired D to work towards first-hand experience and collaboration with McAuley.

"Fulbright has given me the opportunity to spend a whole year observing classes, participating in active research, and discussing ideas," D commented.

D will use her time in Australia to experience the unique Australian born program and review fifteen-years of archived documented rehearsals, looking specifically at how the human body takes on social and cultural meanings in performance.

"The oddest performance I've seen so far was near an old gold mine in Ballarat. The show, *Blood on the Southern Cross*, was billed as a 're-enactment' of the miners' rebellion at

Eureka Stockade. The entire 90-minute show took place in four different outdoor locations, utilized expensive and elaborate sets, but contained no human figures at all except a single actor employed in the last five minutes of the production!"



D Ross (right) and Gay McAuley

From university to UN: Michael takes Manhattan

Michael Bliss received a Fulbright Award in 1997, to undertake a Masters of Law at Columbia University, New York. His career in international law and his cultural ambassadorial skills have taken him far beyond life-saving efforts at Sydney's Coogee Beach.

Michael speaks of his Fulbright interview, "I'm not sure what convinced the panel to award me a Fulbright scholarship but I suspect it had to do with my impromptu discussion about the merits of being a volunteer lifesaver at Coogee Beach (for one summer only). One member of the panel asked how this experience, together with my background in refugee law, would equip me for a role as a cultural ambassador in the U.S. My response was something about community service and an understanding of the importance of the beach in Australian culture". It seemed to impress.

It was while Michael was at International House in New York that his life-saving training paid off. "International House had organised a weekend away for students at a camp in upstate New York". Michael recalls, "It was late summer, there was an inviting lake close to our cabins, and everyone was keen to swim. But the organizers (in the litigation-conscious U.S.) would not allow us to swim without a lifeguard on duty".

You can guess the rest. After some fast-talking, Michael managed to convince the organisers that his Australian life-saving qualifications were equally valid in New York State. Students from around the world eagerly cooled down in the lake however Michael's life-saving skills were required to rescue a couple of students whose enthusiasm exceeded their swimming abilities!

Michael is very positive about his time at Columbia University. "It was a very stimulating experience, I learnt a great deal not only from my professors, but also from my fellow students.



Michael Bliss, 1997 Fulbright Scholar

The range of activities, whether it was informal guest lectures at the Law School or conversations with fellow residents, made it an even richer experience. New York really got under my skin."

However, Michael's posting as Legal Adviser at Australia's Mission to the United Nations has been a true highlight of his career to date.

"To serve as a diplomat for your country anywhere is a privilege.

To do so at the United Nations was a superb opportunity."

In his work with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade he has represented Australia in negotiations on the International Criminal Court, participated in negotiations in Hawaii on a treaty on Pacific fisheries management and visited Australia's Casey station in Antarctica while working on Antarctic Treaty issues.

Michael's time at the Australian Mission to the United Nations also enabled him to reconnect with Columbia University. In the 2004 Spring Semester, he took up an invitation to teach in international environmental law. "It was a tremendous opportunity to teach at a top U.S. law school", says Michael "it was also a great chance to teach international law from a practitioner's perspective."

Michael has recently returned from New York to Canberra, and was married earlier this year to Victoria Coakley. He is currently Director of the International Law and Transnational Crime Section of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade's Legal Branch. He notes "...and the Fulbright name helped. I was told being a Fulbright Scholar was a key consideration in the Department's decision to hire me as a lateral recruit. It's a role that is challenging and rewarding and one that my studies as a Fulbright Scholar have enabled."

The prestigious Alumni (WG Walker) Award goes to the highest ranked Fulbright postgraduate and is funded through an endowment fund supported by donations from Australian Fulbright Alumni.

Thank you to all contributors, especially the Tasmania and Western Australia Alumni Chapters, and a special mention to those that contributed over \$100.

Mr Gregory Bayles
Dr Howard Bradbury
Mrs Elizabeth Brown
Dr Patrick Carroll
Dr James Cameron
Professor Robert Crompton AM
Dr Joseph Glover
Associate Professor Michael Grimm
Ms Bernadette Harrison

Dr Walter Howse
Professor Allan Johnston
Dr Murray Littlejohn
Professor Barry McGaw
Dr Rosemary Sandford
Professor James Saville
Mr Bruce Sinclair AM
Professor Robert Watts



The Scientia, University of NSW

2005 Fulbright National Awards Dinner

To celebrate the achievements and successes of the 2005 Australian Fulbright Scholars, we invite all friends and alumni to join us for a spectacular evening dinner

Thursday 19 May 2005
6.30pm
The Scientia
University of New South Wales

Bookings:
Contact Kate Lyall
katelyall@fulbright.com.au
(02) 6260 4460

Ticket price:
\$100.00 per person
\$80.00 for Financial Members of the
Australian Fulbright (Alumni) Association

Applications are now being called for the 2006 Fulbright Symposium.

The Fulbright Commission annually provides a grant of \$A30,000 to support an Australian institution hosting a conference on a topic of bi-national relevance to Australia and the United States.

Further information and application forms are available at www.fulbright.com.au

Applications close on 29 July 2005.





AUSTRALIAN FULBRIGHT (Alumni) ASSOCIATION (AFA)

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Please complete and return the form below to join the Fulbright Alumni (AFA), renew membership, change contact details or make a donation.

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Membership Subscription (to end of calendar year 2005):

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- 5 Years (\$220)
- 10 Years (\$400)
- Life membership (\$750)

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Subscription amount \$

Donations: (tax-deductible in Australia)

Fulbright (W.G. Walker) Fund \$25 \$50 \$100 Other \$
U.S. Endowment Fund \$25 \$50 \$100 Other \$

Total amount payable: \$

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BEQUESTS

For information on how to make a bequest to Australian-American Fulbright Commission please contact: Kate Lyall on 61 2 6260 4460 or email BEQUEST to katelyall@fulbright.com.au

U.S. ENDOWMENT FUND DONATIONS

To make a U.S. tax deductible donation to the U.S. Endowment Fund please follow the links to Alumni at www.fulbright.com.au



Sponsors

The primary funding for the Fulbright Program in Australia is provided by the Australian and United States governments. This core funding is complemented by the generous support of a select group of companies, organisations and government agencies.

Events

May

18-20 May, Sydney

Orientation Seminar

2005 Australian Fulbright Scholars

19 May, Thursday at 6.30pm, Sydney

National Awards Dinner

The Scientia

University of NSW

Ticket price: \$100.00 per person

\$80.00 for Financial Members of the

Australian Fulbright (Alumni) Association

Contact Kate Lyall for tickets:

T: [02] 6260 4460

E: katelyall@fulbright.com.au

20 May, Friday at 8.30am, Sydney

Annual General Meeting of the Australian

Fulbright Association (AFA)

Promenade Room 2

Swiss-Grand Hotel

Campbell Parade, Bondi

All Fulbright Alumni are invited to attend.

June

1 June

2006 Australian Fulbright Applications Open

21-23 June, Melbourne

Fulbright Symposium

The 2005 Fulbright Symposium "Peace and Human Rights Education", will be held from 21-23 June in Melbourne and hosted by the Faculty of Law and International Conflict Resolution Centre at the University of Melbourne. Guest speakers include:

Jamie Fellner, Director, USA Program Human Rights Watch

Doug Ford, Policy Analyst, U.S. Committee for Refugees

Professor Hurst Hannum, Centre for Human Rights and Conflict Resolution, Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Tufts University

Professor Deena Hurwitz, International Human Rights Program, University of Virginia

Major Mike Roberts, U.S. Army Exchange Officer, Judge Advocate General

July

Fulbright-Hays Seminar Abroad Program

For the first time, Australia is participating in the U.S. Department of Education's Fulbright-Hays Seminar Abroad Program. The seminar "Australia - New Country, Old History", will be conducted with sixteen U.S. educators from high schools and universities. They will travel to Sydney, Canberra, Alice Springs, Uluru, Darwin, Kakadu and Cairns.

Alumni are invited to participate by joining us at specific functions and where possible to act as speakers. Interested parties are invited to leave their details at fulbright@fulbright.com.au

29 July

2006 Fulbright Symposium Applications Close

August

18-20 August, Canberra

Enrichment Seminar

U.S. 2005 Fulbright Scholars

31 August

2006 Australian Fulbright Applications Close