

The Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs of the U.S. Department of State administers the Fulbright Program, the flagship international educational exchange program sponsored by the U.S. government. The Fulbright Association, a private, nonprofit membership organization, is pleased to partner with the Bureau on programs serving Fulbright alumni and visiting Fulbrighters.

Message from Rep. Dave Loebsack (IA-2) to Fellow Fulbrighters in Iowa

As a former educator, I believe programs that increase understanding and interactions between and among countries are a vital means to connect our graduates and students with the rest of the world. The Fulbright Program has provided almost 300,000 participants—chosen for their academic merit and leadership potential—with opportunities across the globe. The learning, empathy, and exchange of ideas that are fostered through the Fulbright Program engage students and graduates in ways that cannot be measured by facts and figures. The Fulbright Program is truly a beacon of light for many people around the world.

As a college professor, I was able to travel to Brazil and Mexico as a participant in the Fulbright Summer Seminar for College Teachers program. These experiences were invaluable to me as I was able first to reorient my research towards Latin America by traveling to

Brazil, and then deepen that study by spending several weeks in Mexico. As a result, my teaching was also immeasurably improved.

The University of Iowa has always led the nation in terms of innovation and cutting-edge research and is part of a great galaxy of higher education institutions throughout our state that participate in the Fulbright Program, sending students and faculty members abroad and receiving visiting Fulbrighters from many other countries. These institutions join the Fulbright Program, in providing promising students with the means and the platform to study, teach and conduct research, exchange ideas and contribute to finding solutions to shared international concerns.

The University of Iowa is the perfect place to launch the Iowa Chapter of the Fulbright Association, and I welcome its students, and those throughout our state, to apply and participate in this excellent program.



U.S. Representative Dave Loebsack (Mexico 1983, Brazil 1987) taught U.S. foreign policy at Cornell College in Mt. Vernon before being elected to office in 2005.

The Fulbright Association launches its Iowa Chapter on June 29 at a University of Iowa program with President Sally Mason and Fulbright Association Executive Director Jane L. Anderson. The Association supports 46 other chapters in 34 states and the District of Columbia, all of which are organized by Fulbright alumni volunteers. Fulbright Association chapters offer educational and cultural programs for Fulbright alumni and visiting Fulbrighters and reach out to local communities to inform them about international exchange opportunities through the Fulbright Program.

The Fulbright Program by the Numbers



In 2008:

- More than 3,900 foreign Fulbright students and 800 foreign scholars came from over 150 countries to the United States to study, teach or conduct research at 250 U.S. campuses.
- More than 1,500 U.S. Fulbright students and 1,100 U.S. Fulbright scholars studied, taught or conducted research in more than 130 countries.
- Ninety-nine percent of visiting Fulbright students say the program increased their knowledge and understanding of the United States and its culture.
- Ninety-six percent of the visiting Fulbright students surveyed shared their Fulbright experiences in their home country through media or community activities.
- Eighty-five percent of returning U.S. Fulbright scholars report a heightened awareness of social and cultural diversity.

Current and Past Fulbright

Luther Students and Alumni Succeed in National Fulbright Competition

Tiffany Choi, a Luther College senior, and Nate Preus, a 2006 graduate, have received Fulbright awards for 2009-10.

Ms. Choi will serve as an English teaching assistant in France, and Mr. Preus will teach English in Belgium. Ms. Choi, a French major at Luther, will teach in a public high school in the Paris region.

"The Luther Honors committee was very impressed with the quality of all the applicants, which speaks to the excellence of Luther students and the commitment of the college to global understanding," said Fulbright advisor Terry Sparkes, who directs college honors at Luther College in Decorah.

Recent Luther faculty recipients of the award include Norma Hervey, professor emeritus of history, Kim Powell, professor of communication studies, Jim Langholz, associate professor of education and David Kamm, assistant professor of art.

Source: <https://publicinformation.luther.edu/200809/may/students/fulbrightawards2009.html>



Tiffany Choi, a recently selected Fulbrighter, will teach English in Paris in 2009. Since 1989, seven Luther students have been granted Fulbright awards.

Spotlighting University of Northern Iowa's Visiting Fulbrighters



Hue Duong Trong is a visiting Fulbright student from Vietnam studying communications at the University of Northern Iowa (UNI) in Cedar Falls. Before arriving in Iowa in 2007, he did not have a clear idea about UNI or the Midwest, but he says the UNI communication studies faculty members inspire intellectual curiosity.

Although he says, "I had the coldest winter ever in my life at UNI,"

and his family couldn't believe he could walk to class with a temperature below 20 degrees Celsius, he enjoys the Fall colors.

His experiences off-campus, traveling and socializing with Americans, have broken stereotypes, opened his mind, and enriched his understanding of America.

"Visitors to America—particularly students—and even their families and friends, have more positive views about America than non-visitors by 10 percentage points."

Source: "The Decline in America's Reputation: Why?" House Committee on Foreign Affairs, 2008

Ahlam Al-Selwi is a visiting Fulbright student from Yemen studying teaching English as a second language at UNI. Following her Fulbright, she plans to become a professor at a university in Yemen.

Having taught English for more than four years, she says, "it creates doors of opportunities to young adults for a promising future."

Young adults in Yemen face many challenges and obstacles in the work force and the educational system according to Ms. Al-Selwi. As a teacher, she says that she feels she can help effect change.

Source: <http://www.grad.uni.edu/graffito/graffito4-3/intstud.htm>



Ahlam Al-Selwi (USA 2008) was invited to attend a conference in Abu Dhabi, UAE. As a panelist, she spoke on Education: The Effective Route for Women's Security.

Southeastern Community College (SCC) in Burlington Honors Ambassador James B. Engle

The SCC Alumni Association announced James Engle (Italy 1950) was among the recipients of the 2009 SCC Distinguished Alumni Awards.

Ambassador Engle spent 46 years in the service of his country under nine U.S. presidents, including 35 years living overseas in 18 different countries. He retired as an FSO1, Ambassador, the highest rank that can be earned in the U.S. Foreign Service. Source: http://www.scciova.edu/rss/news/2009_scc_honors_2009_dist_alumi.html



Ambassador James B. Engle (Italy 1950)

Program Participants in Iowa



Remarkable People: Cliff Missen (Nigeria 1998)

Over the last decade, Cliff Missen (Nigeria 1998) has been digging deep to improve Africa's access to two resources that the developed world takes for granted—the Internet and drinkable water.

Mr. Missen is the director of the WiderNet Project, a service initiative housed under the School of Library and Information Science in the UI Graduate College. The project aims to improve digital communication in developing countries by identifying and promoting affordable technology.

"WiderNet's a very Iowa project. It's very practical," Mr. Missen says. "We're not going to save the world. We're doing very basic, practical work to improve information access for people in developing countries."



Cliff Missen's (Nigeria 1998) eight-year-old organization has engaged more than 200 University of Iowa students to refurbish and ship more than 1,200 computers to Africa.

In addition to affordable IT equipment, WiderNet provides coaching and advocacy for universities from less developed countries, especially those in Africa. He defines his areas of interest—communication and development—as empowering disadvantaged people with tools that they can use to improve their lives.

The WiderNet Project began after Mr. Missen taught at the University of Jos in Nigeria under Fulbright sponsorship in 1999.

Coming up with the cash is hard work, but Mr. Missen finds great satisfaction in its results. "I don't believe in altruism," Mr. Missen says, when asked what payoff he gets from his work. "I used to think I could give away without expecting anything back, but when I do so I get back ten-fold."

<http://www.uiowa.edu/be-remarkable/portfolio/people/missen-c.html>



Dr. Adriana Méndez Rodenas will teach courses on Latino autobiographies in Sweden in 2009.



Dr. Charles Helms will conduct research in Australia in 2009.



Dr. Phillip Round will lead graduate seminars in Spain during his 2009 Fulbright.

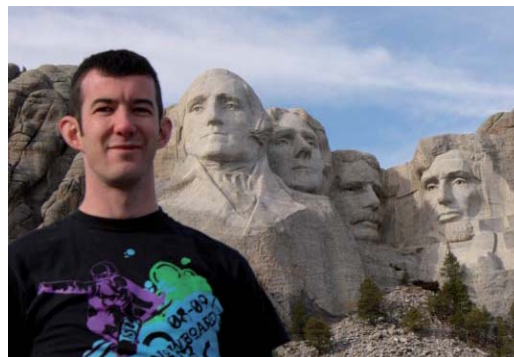
An Iowa - New Zealand Connection

Alyssa Borowske (New Zealand 2007) from Mt. Vernon, Iowa



Science research opportunities at Cornell College in Mt. Vernon took Alyssa Borowske around the globe, and her efforts earned her a 2007 Fulbright grant to study the impacts of Australian magpies on native bird species in New Zealand.

Rick Henry (USA 2007) from Auckland, New Zealand



A New Zealand Fulbright-Ministry of Research, Science and Technology Graduate Award was granted to Rick Henry for his research at Iowa State University in Ames on seismic behavior of concrete wall systems.

International students contributed over \$181 million to Iowa's state revenue in 2008.

Source: Open Doors 2008, Report on International Education Exchange, Institute of International Education



Fulbright Association Mission

To engage current and former Fulbright exchange participants in lifelong experiences that advance international understanding through volunteer service to communities, people-to-people diplomacy and dialogue on global issues.

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Did you know...

11 Fulbright alumni have been elected to the United States Congress
18 Fulbright alumni have served as a head of state or government
37 Fulbright alumni from ten countries are recipients of the Nobel prize

Find more information at <http://fulbright.state.gov/fulbright/community/alumni>

Fulbright Grants Awarded
to Residents of Iowa

Academic Year	Grants Awarded
2007-08	24
2006-07	33
2005-06	33
2004-05	28

Fulbrighters from Abroad Studying, Teaching, or
Researching in Iowa

Academic Year	Grants Awarded
2007-08	38
2006-07	40
2005-06	44
2004-05	42

Iowa Fulbrighters in the Arts



Ronald Johnson (Hungary 2004) is a professor of instrumental conducting and conductor of the *Wind Symphony* and *The Chamber Wind Players* at the University of Northern Iowa in Cedar Falls.



Marianne Taylor (Morocco 2005) is a poet who currently teaches creative writing at Kirkwood Community College in Cedar Rapids.



Joseph Dangerfield (Russia 2009) will serve as composer-in-residence at the Moscow Conservatory. At Coe College in Cedar Rapids, Dr. Dangerfield teaches music composition and theory and serves as the director of the Coe College Symphony Orchestra.

Visit the Fulbright Association on the web at
www.fulbright.org!