

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. The U.S. Department of Education administers section 102(b)(6) of the Fulbright-Hays Act, providing funds to U.S. institutions to meet national needs for expertise in foreign languages and area or international studies. The Fulbright Association is also pleased to work with Department of Education grantees.

Chew on This: Lutefisk, Literature, and Other Norwegian Delicacies

Fed pickled herring and *gjetost* brown cheese as a toddler, Eric Dregni grew up in Norway's colony in America: Minnesota. As the recipient of a 2004 Fulbright fellowship in creative writing, Mr. Dregni lived in Trondheim, Norway, and wrote about his year in his latest book, "In Cod We Trust: Living the Norwegian Dream."

Mr. Dregni's great-grandfather Ellef fled Norway in 1893 when it was the poorest country in Europe. More than one hundred years later, his great-grandson traveled back to find it is now the richest. The circumstances of his return were serendipitous, as the notice that Mr. Dregni won a Fulbright arrived the same week as the knowledge that his wife Katy was pregnant. Braving a birth abroad and benefiting from a remarkably generous healthcare system, Mr. Dregni's family came full circle when his son Eilif was born in Norway.

In his cross-cultural memoir, Mr. Dregni tells the hair-raising, hilari-

ous, and sometimes poignant stories of his family's yearlong Norwegian experiment. Among the exploits he details are staying warm in a remote grass-roofed *hytte* (hut), surviving a dinner of *rakfisk* (fermented fish), and identifying his great-grandfather's house in the Lusterfjord only to find it had been crushed by a boulder and swept away by a river.

Mr. Dregni's Scandinavian roots did little to prepare him and his family for the year in Trondheim eating herring cakes, obeying the conformist *Janteloven* (Jante's law), and enduring the *mørketid* (dark time). In "Cod We Trust" is one Minnesota family's spirited excursion into Scandinavian life. The land of the midnight sun is far stranger than they previously thought, and their encounters show that there is much we can learn from its unique and surprising culture.

Source: <http://www.cord.edu/dept/alumni/enews/Jan09/headlines.php>



Eric Dregni (Norway 2004) is the author of two books about oddities and landmarks across Minnesota and Midwest America. He also co-authored "Weird Minnesota."

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 (*Open Doors*, IIE: 2008).
- 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 (*Open Doors*, IIE: 2008).
- More than 700 American educators received Fulbright-Hays awards to teach, conduct research, and train fellow educators in 2008 (International Education Programs Service, <http://www.ieps-iris.org>).
- Ninety-nine percent of visiting Fulbright students say the program increased their knowledge and understanding of the United States and its culture (U.S. Department of State Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, <http://www.fulbright.state.gov>).
- Ninety-six percent of the visiting Fulbright students surveyed shared their Fulbright experiences in their home country through media or community activities (U.S. Department of State Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, <http://www.fulbright.state.gov>).
- Eighty-five percent of returning U.S. Fulbright scholars report a heightened awareness of social and cultural diversity. ("Building International Connections for U.S. Universities: Fulbright Scholar Programs," CIES: 2009).

St. Kate's 2007 Grad Awarded Fulbright Assistantship

Rebecca Pottebaum is currently on a Fulbright English teaching assistantship in Brazil. She said, "I have a new consideration for what it means to be a 'citizen ambassador' of sorts. Obviously, I am doing ambassador-type work every day in Quissamã....[At the Fulbright regional enhancement seminar in São Paulo,] I felt like so many people, like me, had a great respect for the opportunity we are living. Honestly, I felt reassured when, looking around the room, I thought that the USA is being given a good face in our communities, by the quality and charisma of the people representing her abroad as cultural ambassadors."

Source: <http://rebeccapottebaum.wordpress.com>, June 27, 2009



Rebecca Pottebaum (Brazil 2009) with local children in Quissamã, Brazil.

Gustavus Alumnus Researched WTO on a Fulbright Award

Aaron Flohrs, a 2005 graduate of Gustavus Adolphus College from Ormsby, Minn., won a prestigious Fulbright fellowship to conduct research in Switzerland on the World Trade Organization (WTO).

Mr. Flohrs, an international management and political science double major at Gustavus who graduated summa cum laude in 2005, examined whether bias toward the WTO's most dominant and influential members exists in the organization's dispute settlement mechanism.

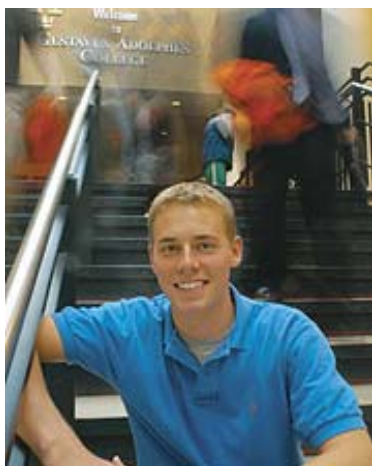
"The 2005 round of trade talks within the WTO were dubbed a 'development' round," he said, "promising to focus on issues relevant to the economic development of the majority of the world's nations. Yet even with this new WTO focus, there are many different aspects

of economic development that represent challenges to these nations."

Mr. Flohrs's research proposal focused on a number of questions. Can the WTO shift its focus toward economic development when its dealings continue to be dominated by its most influential members? Is there a bias toward developed nations in terms of dispute settlement that renders developing nations' proposals ineffective at the highest levels of trade negotiations? He also looked at what methods might be available for developing nations to increase their influence and bargaining power within the WTO's dispute settlement body.

Among Mr. Flohrs longer range plans were law school and work in international trade, whether with the WTO or the U.S. government.

Source: <http://gustavus.edu/news/?id=1388>



Aaron Flohrs (Switzerland 2005) on the Gustavus Adolphus campus.

"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

Program Participants in Minnesota

AUGSBURG
COLLEGE

Fulbrighter Will Teach in Malaysia

Katie Macaulay didn't know much about the Fulbright scholarship program last spring. She had heard about the program, but dismissed it as a realistic possibility.

"I thought it was a scholarship of the Ivy League. I thought it was out of reach," Ms. Macaulay said. "I'm a small town girl from Minnesota."

But something happened one day last April when Ms. Macaulay stumbled across the story of how fellow Auggies Ashley Stoffers and Erin Olsen had been awarded Fulbright scholarships.

A year later, Ms. Macaulay received word that she too had been selected to be a Fulbright fellow and will spend the 2009-10 academic year teaching English in Malaysia.

Ms. Macaulay had been checking her e-mail in hopes of finding out whether she had been selected, and on a Monday morning, her mother called from New Ulm and left two messages on her cell phone. The first said a thick enve-

lope had arrived. In the second, her mother said she couldn't help herself, and she had opened it.

Ms. Macaulay is the second Fulbright winner from Augsburg this year and is the fourth Auggie in two years to receive this scholarship. About 7,500 grants are awarded each year.

Ms. Macaulay is looking forward to the experience in another part of the world and to learning how to teach.

"I want to get some more exposure and more experience with Asian cultures," she said. "It's an up-and-coming part of the world."

Ms. Macaulay also proved to herself that achieving a prestigious scholarship is something that she could accomplish.

"As I was going through the process...I learned that while I might not have the background, I do have the foreground," Ms. Macaulay said. Source: http://augnet.augsburg.edu/news-archives/2009/03_30_09/macaulay_fulbright.html



Katie Macaulay (Malaysia 2009) is no stranger to adventurous travel. Here she admires the landscape of Machu Pichu, Peru.


MACALESTER COLLEGE



Joanna Ingot (Poland 1992) teaches modern and contemporary art history at Macalester College in St. Paul. Her book, "The Figurative Sculpture of Magdalena Abakanowicz: Bodies, Environments, and Myths," examines the work of the pioneering fiber artist and sculptor in the context of a dynamic cultural and socio-political scene that developed under Communism in Poland.

Source: http://works.bepress.com/joanna_inglot/

In the forward of Dr. Ingot's recently published book, she states, "I was fortunate to get to know Abakanowicz personally and to spend extensive periods of time with her during 1992-1993, while I was on a Fulbright fellowship in Poland, and I am deeply grateful...."

 **UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA**
Between 1988 and 2008, ninety-five University of Minnesota faculty members were named Fulbright scholars to more than 40 countries.
http://www.international.umn.edu/funding/fulbright/UMfulbrights_byName.pdf

Fulbrighter from Norway Relishes Minnesota

"Adding Fulbright to your resume is like adding an extra degree. It's a proof of quality," says Terje Kristensen (right).

In 2008, Terje Kristensen received a Fulbright foreign student grant to complete his doctoral degree in environmental science at the University of Minnesota.

"I've had a great experience here [in Minneapolis] as a Fulbrighter," he said.

Mr. Kristensen participates regularly in University of Minnesota campus activities. He plays on the University Men's Soccer Club team, which in 2008 succeeded in competing at the National Intramural-Recreational Sports Association National Soccer Tournament in Tuscaloosa, Alabama.



International students contributed over \$197 million to Minnesota's state revenue in 2008.

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



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...

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

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

Fulbrighters from Abroad Studying, Teaching, or Researching in Minnesota

Academic Year	Grants Awarded
2007-08	70
2006-07	62
2005-06	52
2004-05	63

Fulbright Grants Awarded to Residents of Minnesota

Academic Year	Grants Awarded
2007-08	65
2006-07	73
2005-06	59
2004-05	56

Reflections on My Fulbright to Germany

By Rev. Dr. William C. Nelsen

Just out of college, I was a Fulbright student at the University of Erlangen in Germany (then West Germany) during the academic year 1963-64.

I studied theology under some well-known professors of religion, yet the impact of my Fulbright year went far beyond valuable classroom and seminar learning. I learned the German language, broadened my liberal arts education, deepened my understanding of both shared values and cultural differences. I made friends with students from several European countries, with whom I am still in

“My Fulbright experience lives on.”

contact, and we have renewed our friendship with times together in both Europe and America.

While I later earned a doctoral degree in political science and had a great career in higher education as a college president and head of a national scholarship foundation, I recently returned to seminary to complete requirements for ordination in the Lutheran Church. I currently serve as a pastor of two churches in Southern Minnesota, both of which have German historical roots, and there are still some of the older members with whom I enjoy speaking the German language. My Fulbright experience lives on.



Rev. Dr. William C. Nelsen (Germany 1963) is a pastor at St. Paul Lutheran Church in St. Paul.

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