

FULBRIGHT ALUMNI NEWS

Linking the UK and USA

The Newsletter of the BFSA

Number 34 April 2006



BFSA MAY CONCERT ON 31ST MAY LEIGHTON HOUSE



Leighton House is the former studio and home of the great Victorian artist Frederic, Lord Leighton. (1830-1896) Located on the edge of London's Holland Park it is one of the most extraordinary buildings of the nineteenth century.

This magnificent Kensington mansion has sumptuous interiors hung with important paintings by Lord Leighton and his contemporaries, including John Everett Millais, Edward Burne-Jones and George Frederick Watts. As the location of this year's May concert, it will provide an unforgettable insight into Leighton's private world and offer a truly unique opportunity for the understanding and appreciation of Victorian art and architecture.

Frederic Leighton was born in Scarbor-

ough, Yorkshire, in 1830, but spent much of his childhood travelling throughout Europe with his family. At the age of sixteen his family settled in Munich am Main, Germany, where Leighton enrolled at the Stadelches Kunstinstitut, eventually studying under the aesthete Johann Eduard Von Steinle. He became an accomplished draughtsman, his paintings and sculptures evoking the formal values of ancient Greek statuary and Renaissance masters such as Raphael and Titian. His classical subject matter sought a higher moral consciousness through religious and mythological themes, making him the chief proponent of the Classical revival in the arts in late Victorian England.

In 1855 his painting "Cimabue's Madonna" was bought by Queen Victoria from the Royal Academy, launching Lord Leighton into society. He became an academician in 1869 and in 1878 was knighted and elected President of the RA, a post he held until his death in 1896. In 1873 he revisited the East and began collecting the antique Damascus tiles that can be seen in the Arab Hall.

A great artist, a courtier, a man of letters, and eminent in all, Lord Leighton died in 1896. His body lay in state in the central hall of the Royal Academy until the funeral, held a week later in St. Paul's Cathedral. The artist's palette, still set with the colours he had used just a fortnight before, was set

upon his coffin alongside the medals and orders that had been conferred upon him by foreign governments and a hand-written note from Queen Victoria. He is buried in the Cathedral near the tombs and ashes of Sir Joshua Reynolds, Turner, Opie, Benjamin West, Landseer and others who had preceded him.

Our concert at Leighton House this May will feature Madeleine Mitchell (*Eastman 1979*) who is well known for a wide repertoire combining classics and contemporary works. Also playing for us is the versatile and eclectic composer, conductor, teacher and performer Adam Swayne (*Northwestern 2004*) who did his doctorate in piano under the aegis of celebrated pianist Ursula Oppens.

For further information please get in touch with the BFSA office and for details on how to reserve a place please see the Booking Form with this newsletter.



Lord Leighton

BFSA is pleased to acknowledge that this newsletter has been made possible thanks to the generosity of the US Embassy.

LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

This issue of the newsletter illustrates the diversity of BFSA events and activities our alumni are engaged in, which are at the cutting edge of current global concerns.

The feature about the Fulbrighters in Science Conference in Berlin earlier this year is a case in point. This highlights the work of the Fulbright Academy of Science and Technology, an independent grouping of alumni, which is another dynamic result of the Fulbright programme. The Academy seeks to bring scientists together for the purpose of making professional contacts and discussing current topics across the whole spectrum of scientific endeavour.

The article about the intrepid travel plans of Kate Rawles, about to embark upon an odyssey by bicycle along the North American Great Divide, is another example of the important contribution that Fulbright alumni make to current debate. Kate has won a Winston Churchill Travelling Fel-

lowship which she intends to use to research environmental problems and foresees radical solutions to these being implemented in the US.

On the subject of recent events I would like to highlight the report on the Scotland and Northern Ireland BFSA Chapter meeting in Belfast held during the weekend of the 10th to the 12th of March 2006. This coincided with the British Council Conference for international teachers on the Fulbright UK/US teacher exchange programme and Commonwealth Teacher exchange programme. The weekend was a resounding success with a programme of unique events including a visit to Stormont and a selection of social and cultural activities.

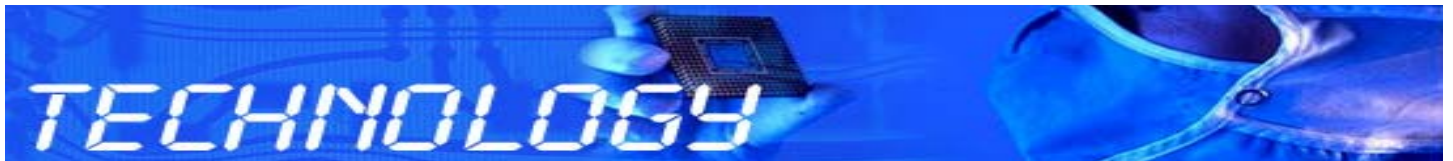
We are delighted that the annual BFSA May concert will be held on the 31st of May this year in the remarkable and elegant surroundings of Leighton House. We hope to see many of the alumni at this his-

toric venue. The website for Leighton House gives a glimpse of the beautiful and unusual architecture and décor of the building, and we are honoured that alumni Adam Swayne and Madeleine Mitchell have both agreed to perform music for us in this lovely setting.

There will also be the Autumn Reception in October, venue to be announced, and preparations for the January debate in 2007 are well under way, with Middle Temple the likely venue. Watch for further details later this year.

We were delighted that Michael Hislop attended our last committee meeting to give a presentation on the progress of the new Fulbright Alumni Directory 2006, and the development of a web-based Directory for the future. The new paper-copy Directory is expected to be ready later this month.

Anne Crossfield



The **Fulbrighters in Science Conference**, held in Berlin in March, had 140 registered participants from 25 countries.

Our program began with the Friday evening dinner for 40 at Brew-Pub in the centre of Berlin. It was an evening of serendipity - identifying connections among people who had never previously met, be it similarities in research projects, university experiences, or cities where we have lived.

The program began in earnest on Saturday morning, with tours of the new European School of Management and Technology and the old Berlin Medical Historical Museum.

Our keynote speaker - Dr. Norman Neureiter from the American Association of the Advancement of Science - was unable to attend, but submitted a copy of his talk (see website). Happily, Dr. Tony Worby from Tasmania was able to give an excellent illustrated talk on Antarctica, Sea Ice, and Climate Change. The evening keynote speaker

was Dr. Glenn Markoe of the Cincinnati Museum of Art - he described the multitude of technologies and disciplines used in conserving art and displaying it in museums.

On Saturday and Sunday afternoon, we had a total of seven panel discussions on Science policy, Teaching science (especially in K-12 classrooms), Basic engineering & science research,

I really enjoyed Berlin: both the quality of the presentations and discussions in the margins. I always think that if you make one good contact at a workshop then it's time well spent, and I made several excellent contacts with whom I've already been in touch, so I'm very pleased to have gone.

Louise Shaxson (Cornell 1988)

Science & international development, Medicine/Biology, Business & scientific innovation, and Internet for education. Many of the speakers used PowerPoint to enhance their presentation, and copies of these can also be found on the website

During the conference we collected some seven hours of video footage and interviews which will be used to make a DVD documentary about the conference and the impacts of the Fulbright program.

A member of the Fulbright Academy of Science & Technology called me this week. He had been unable to go to our conference in Berlin but had read the program and wanted to contact one of the participants. She is a current grantee - a young woman some 40 years younger than the caller and working on another continent - but they were both trying to understand the same scientific principle (one that I don't even completely understand).

So I introduced them via email. Now they are talking, and helping each other, and appealing to others to get involved.

Mr. Eric S. Howard (Germany 1989)
Executive Director of the Academy

www.fulbrightacademy.org

THE CARBON CYCLE

A 4500 mile bike ride along the spine of the Rockies to explore North American responses to climate change



Kate Rawles, who received a Fulbright Travel Award in 1989 to study at Colorado State University, has just been awarded a Winston Churchill Traveling Fellowship to cycle along the North American Great Divide unsupported and often solo, from El Paso on the Mexican border to Anchorage in Alaska. On the way she will explore the consequences and responses to climate change as she encounters them in the most oil intensive culture on Earth. Her journey will include a visit to Colorado State University in Fort Collins, where she studied courtesy of her Fulbright Award.

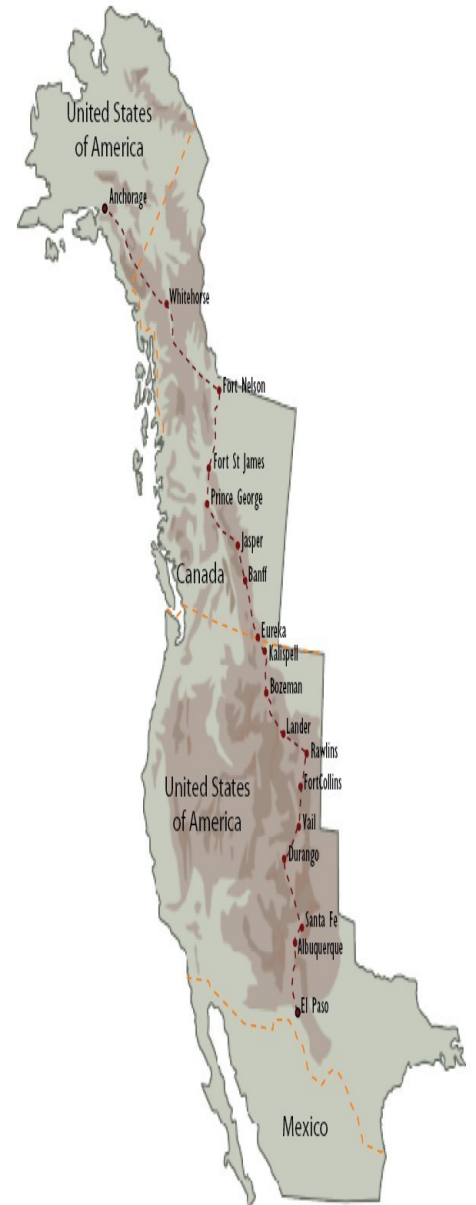
Kate is a college lecturer in outdoor studies at St. Martin's College, Ambleside, an environmentalist and passionate cyclist. She hopes to use the insights she gains from her trip to communicate the importance and urgency of our environmental and social justice challenges and the crucial role we could all play in meeting these.

She says "there is now a scientific consensus that climate change is underway, that it is at least partly human induced and that it will have a major impact on our quality of life. It also poses a threat to many other species on

the planet. Despite the scientific evidence our practical responses to the threat of climate change remain seriously inadequate". Kate's intention is to find out what we in the UK can learn from the challenges faced by North America and how we can turn this into action. Kate points out "we have limited time to act if we are to keep a quality of life and protect other species and ecosystems. Everyone can make a difference whether in their personal lives or through their professional role. There is still time to move towards sustainable, enjoyable and equitable ways of living".

Setting out in mid June 2006 Kate will average 75 miles a day and aims to arrive in Anchorage mid September, just before the snows arrive. She will carry everything she needs for her journey, passing through deserts, mountains and forests; climbing over 300,000 feet in the process, a height more than ten times that of Everest. Along the way Kate will visit projects involved in climate change issues and talk with the people she encounters as well as meeting with local environmentalists and politicians. She believes that the whole continent, with such an extreme carbon intensive culture, will also be foremost in developing some of the most radical responses to it.

Kate has organised a number of awareness and fund raising bike rides in mountains for charity. Her first trip was in 1987 from the mouth to the source of the Rhone raising money for Scottish War on Want. This was followed by a 1,100 mile solo ride in the Rockies and the Yukutan rain forest for Oxfam and IDEA (International Development Ethics Association).



Her longest trip so far was a ride along the spine of the Andes from Caracas, Venezuela through Columbia to Ecuador. She has also taken part in an Oxfam organised ride in Israel and Jordan and cycled in the Scottish Highlands and the Picos de Europa in Spain.

Kate has a lifelong commitment to environmental, social and animal welfare issues.

Keep in touch with Kate at:



www.outdoorphilosophy/carboncycle



S&NI CHAPTER AT BC CONFERENCE IN BELFAST



Over the weekend of 10th - 12th March a number of BSFA members from Scotland and Northern Ireland got together in Belfast for an early St. Patrick's Day celebration. The event coincided with the British Council Conference for international teachers on the

Fulbright UK/US teacher exchange programme and the Commonwealth Teacher exchange programme. These programmes allow teachers to swap jobs for a year with the idea of bringing an international dimension into the classroom. (See article on page 5)

On the morning of 10th March the BFSA had organised a private tour of Parliament Buildings, Stormont, where the guide provided a 'behind the scenes' insight into the workings of the Northern Ireland Assembly. This was followed by a delightful lunch in the Members Dining Room which affords panoramic views of the Stormont Estate and the Greater Belfast area.

On Saturday morning, as part of the BC conference, a bus took everyone to the beautiful Antrim Coast where they had the opportunity to spend some time at Giant's Causeway, (a world heritage site,) and to visit the famous Bushmills Distillery - reputed to be the oldest licensed distillery in the world. Saturday evening's activities kicked off with a dinner in Malone House, an elegant late Georgian Mansion set among the rolling parkland of South Belfast. The evening was rounded off in style with the annual Ceili and traditional Irish music.

BULGARIAN-AMERICAN COMMISSION FOR EDUCATIONAL EXCHANGE

7th INTERNATIONAL FULBRIGHT CONFERENCE

CULTURE, EDUCATION AND LEADERSHIP TODAY AND TOMORROW

May 12 – 13 2006, Sofia, Bulgaria

The 7th International Fulbright Conference will be held in Sofia on May 12-13, 2006. It is organized and sponsored by the Bulgarian-American Commission for Educational Exchange. The theme of the conference *Culture, Education and Leadership Today and Tomorrow* incorporates the manifold trends, changes and transformations affecting our world in the new age. The main purpose of the conference has three aspects:

- Marking the 60th anniversary of the Fulbright Program
- sustaining the tradition to hold an international Fulbright conference on a significant theme every two

years since 1994

- drawing public attention to the achievements of the Fulbright program and its capacity to help mutual understanding through intercultural dialogue.

The main theme of the conference will be illuminated by discussions on a variety of topics and subtopics, e.g. the changing nature of culture in the new age; culture and globalization; education and culture; globalization and internationalisation of education; Bulgarian education and the challenges of EU accession; intercultural communication in the changing socio-political and cultural environment; modern

leadership; leadership and education; organizational culture and leadership; management and leadership etc.

Conference sessions

There will be four types of sessions in the conference program: plenary session, workshops, roundtable and panel sessions.

The main contributors to the conference are expected to be distinguished scholars and educators from the U.S., Europe and Bulgaria, US Fulbrighters in Bulgaria and Europe, Bulgarian Fulbright alumni, representatives of U.S., European and Bulgarian educational and government institutions.

FULBRIGHT TEACHER EXCHANGE:

From the perspective of American teacher Dana Pennell



Dana Pennell on the coast at Eastbourne where she did her Fulbright year.

My experience with the Fulbright teacher exchange program started in the fall of 2004. A friend had previously been on exchange in Glasgow, Scotland and I was very interested in the opportunity. We had spoken about the exchange and I decided that I was now at a time where this experience would not only enhance my teaching but also my life.

I applied, as did another teacher in my school. We were both accepted but since he had been granted an exchange the previous year which had fallen through, our school district informed me that if we were both granted a match I may have to decline in his favour, because they would not grant two from one school. I agreed, knowing that I would have to wait a year, but I was encouraged to know that I would have another opportunity.

So the school year passed and the time came for matches to be made. This time I was the only person applying from my school and was granted an exchange with a lady from Eastbourne, East Sussex, England. I was elated. She had a house on the harbour, amazingly close to the beach, that could not have been more opposite to my surroundings in the United States. I live in

Gilbert, Arizona, which is right in the middle of the desert, no beach, no sea, and actually very little water. I just hoped that she was as thrilled as I was, I mean really, she was moving from paradise to the barren desert.

Well, the exchange took place and what an experience this has been. I find that no matter how many times you visit a place, living there is totally a different thing. Boy did I find that out in a hurry.

First of all, I had driven on the left side of the road only once before so the first few times in the car I found I had to literally talk out loud to myself in order to manoeuvre through traffic.

My first time in the supermarket was something of a reality check. I think this experience really teaches you how different cultures are to one another, on several different levels, although I was excited to see some familiar brands. The first time I went I was there for about three hours, not because I had to buy so much, but because I had to read all the labels to figure out what I was looking at.

Another shock was the laundry. The first time I used the all in one washer/dryer I thought that within the hour I would be able to take them out and hang them up. I was very wrong about this. The cycle seemed to run longer than I ever remembered my washer at home running. I knew that it was rather expensive to run the dryer so I was aware that I would need to hang most things to let them dry. Boy did that take some getting used to. However, I am pleased to report that I have figured out if I need to wear something on Thursday I have it washed and hanging by Tuesday morning at the latest.

There are many day to day things that have caught me off guard but I have managed to embrace the differences rather than notice them. Hopefully, as exchange teachers, we are able to value and celebrate the things that are unfamiliar to us. If we can't do that and want everything to be as it is at home, then we probably should stay at home.

Can I say that everything has run as smoothly as I would have wanted? No, but I can say that through the rough patches I have learned a great deal about myself and

others around me. I have learned that everyone's perspective is his or her reality. I have learned that we are a 'my way is the only way' society. But hopefully programs like the Fulbright teacher exchange are breaking down some of the barriers and preconceived ideas about different cultures and countries.

I have learned that even though we speak the same language in England and the United States, we really speak very different languages. I have learned so many words in England that have absolutely no meaning attached to them in the States, and vice versa.

My school experience has taught me that there are many different ideas out there about how to present curriculum. All have value, but some are not always as appropriate for your class as others. I have also learned that children are children no matter how you slice it. There are fun-loving children, loud children, quiet children and sad children. No matter the personality, background, or social status, children are to be loved, cherished, taught and valued as tomorrow's society.

I am so thrilled to have had this opportunity of a lifetime this year. The people and places that have formed another dimension to my being will never be forgotten. I hope while I've been here that I have done something at sometime to influence ideas and beliefs of others in a positive way.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

MAY CONCERT: 31st MAY 2006

Leighton House. (See front page)

AUTUMN RECEPTION

OCTOBER 2006

S&NI CHAPTER XMAS RECEPTION

DECEMBER 2006 (Edinburgh)

AGM & ANNUAL LECTURE

5th DECEMBER 2007

BFSA FORUM DEBATE

18th JANUARY 2007

FULBRIGHT MERCHANDISE



The new BFSA Business Card Holders are now on sale from the BFSA office. The card holders are matt silver plated and measure 9.4cms by 5.9cms, which is standard business card size. Each is engraved with the BFSA logo.

The card holders cost £15.00 each plus postage. Please make your cheque for £15.65p payable to the BFSA.

FULBRIGHT SILK TIES



Navy silk tie with pink diagonal stripe bearing Senator Fulbright's signature. The ties cost £25.00 plus 50p postage and packing. Please make your cheque payable to the BFSA.

FULBRIGHT TARTAN SCARVES ARE AVAILABLE FROM THE FULBRIGHT COMMISSION.

Contact Annette Campbell.

accampbell@fulbright.co.uk



Fulbright UK Film Council award for Film-makers

The Commission is delighted to announce a new venture in collaboration with the UK Film Council to launch an award for film-makers. The Film Council has expressed their strong interest in sponsoring a Fulbright award to fund the first year of a Masters degree in Film. Applications for the award are expected to open in June 2006 for academic year 2007/08.

The Fulbright Commission has a long tradition of supporting aspiring film-makers, from the late Graham Binns (Syracuse, 1950) one of the founders of Capital Radio, and Charles McDougall (USC, 1982) who recently won an Emmy in 2005 for "Desperate Housewives" to Ed McGown (Columbia, 2005), currently shooting his second-year project on Staten Island. As the

centre of the film industry the US naturally offers access to all the relevant skills and facilities as well as opportunities to work with experienced industry professionals. The UK also attracts candidates in similar numbers, for its literary and dramatic heritage and for the exposure it offers to a variety of genres. A documentary "Sunny Intervals & Showers" by Jonathan Goodman Levitt (NSFT, 2000) was recently premiered on BBC 4.

The criteria for application for the new award will be the same as for other Fulbright Postgraduate awards. Candidates must have a minimum 2:1 undergraduate degree from a British university and must not be resident in the US at the time of application.

www.fulbright.co.uk



Dr Anna Tilley, past chair of the BFSA, gave birth to a son, Ruairi John Patrick, on 27th March 2006.

* Miss Ann Isabel Steven died at her home in Lancashire, aged 86, on the 26th February. She had retired as Head of Longmoor School some years ago. During her Fulbright year in the US, in the late 1950s, Miss Steven had met Senator John F. Kennedy who congratulated her on her participation in the Fulbright programme for "bringing the knowledge of the Old World to the New".

* Andrew Porte passed away in May of last year. He had also been a Fulbright scholar in the 1950s, at the University of Illinois .

* The Reverend Brian Rice (*Seabury Western Seminary 1955*) recently celebrated his Golden Jubilee as an Honorary Chicagoan with a visit to the city. Alderman Mary Ann Smith presented Reverend Rice with a resolution stating "That we, the Mayor and members of the Chicago City Council gathered here do hereby express our gratitude and our congratulations to Reverend Brian Rice of Great Britain who so often and so diligently has visited this fine city in the name of inspiring friendship."

* Dr Bill Nuttall (*MIT 1987*) is part of a team who have won an award at the East of England Energy Group's 3rd Annual Innovation Awards for their work on Fusion Energy. Dr Nuttall presented the concept of the Fusion Island, a self-contained hydrogen energy source, at the Awards Ceremony on the 7th of February 2006. The 'Fusion Island' concept proposes a power plant built on an island, where fusion heat is used to split water drawn from the sea into hydrogen and oxygen. Fusion energy, which is created by atomically combining two hydrogen isotopes at extremely high temperatures, is the holy grail of nuclear researchers. For further information on this fascinating project please follow the link below:

http://www.jbs.cam.ac.uk/news/spotlight/2006/0602_faculty_nuttall.html

* **New Orleans Update:** Tanvir Hussain (*UCL 2005*) reports that the homeless population he works with is now less markedly from New Orleans. At the latest Houston committee meeting it was indicated that in retrospect a registry of all individuals who had gone through the Astrodome should have been kept in order to help reunite families and friends.

[BFSA COMMITTEE PROFILES](#)

[Tahitia McCabe Observer](#)

An Oregonian by birth and an Alaskan by choice, Tahitia McCabe was a Fulbright Fellow based at the 2nd Air Division Memorial Library in Norwich from 2002 to 2004. Graduating with a BFA in Theatrical Costume Design and a BA in History in 1990 from Southern Oregon State College, she decided the professional world of theatre was not for her. Moving to Alaska, to a life involving the local public library, hiking, fishing and amateur theatre was fulfilling until ambition struck. In 2000, she graduated from Syracuse University with a Master of Library Science taken through their online degree program. Several years were spent working at the Alaska State Library and the University of Southeast Alaska before moving to Norwich. Tahitia is now married to an Englishman and living in Scotland where she is a branch manager for the Edinburgh Public Library system.

Anne Crossfield, Chair

(*Morgan, Lewis & Brockius. NY. 1995*)
Barrister

Toby Franklin, Deputy Chair

(*Dartmouth College, 2001*)
Head of Strategy, Kensington Group
Contact: Toby.Franklin@alum.dartmouth.org

Thomas Grant, Honorary Treasurer

(*Cambridge University, 1995-99*)
Fellow, Wolfson College. Cambs.
Contact: tdg20@cam.ac.uk

Rony Douek, Honorary Secretary

(*Harvard, 1999*)
Investment Director, Merlin Biosciences
Contact: rdouek@mba2000.hbs.edu

Louise Appleton, (Scotland & Northern Ireland)

(*Rutgers University, 1997*)
Research Officer, Scottish Exec, Education Dept
Contact: Louise.Appleton@scotland.gsi.gov.uk

Ross Janes

(*University of Virginia 1982*)
Fellow Emeritus, City University, London
Contact: ross@rossjanes.plus.com

Alan Merson

(*New York University 2002*)
Lawyer, Blackstone Chambers
Contact: alan@merson.net

Tom Ogilvie-Graham, MBE

(*Cornell 2001*)
Army Officer. Colonel.
Contact: tom.ogilvie-graham@virgin.net

Keith Scott, CBE, (Midlands & North)

(*MIT, 1953-55*)
Architect and former Chairman of Building Design Partnership
Contact: keith@keithscott.demon.co.uk

Jaswinder K. Sethi

(*Harvard 1997*)
Sen. Research Fellow. Cambs.
Contact: jks30@cam.ac.uk

Richard Colback

(*UCLA 2000*)
Director, Intermodal Data Exchange
Contact: rcolback@intermodaldata.com

Pankaj Sharma

(*Harvard 1999*)
Neurologist
Contact: pankaj.sharma@imperial.ac.uk

The BFSA Office

Fulbright House
62 Doughty St
London WC1N 2JZ

Tel: 020 7405 6750

Email: bfsa@fulbright.co.uk

VISITING FULBRIGHT STUDENT ASSESSMENT

The Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs has released the Visiting Fulbright Student Program Outcome Assessment conducted by SRI International.

The vast majority of Visiting Fulbright Student Program alumni respondents reported that their Fulbright experience increased their knowledge and understanding of the United States and its culture. Alumni responded overwhelmingly that the program allowed them to develop long-lasting personal and professional relationships with Americans that have enabled them to continue the exchange of thoughts and ideas. In addition, a large majority of alumni indicated that the program helped them to move into leadership positions in their professions.

95% of respondents felt that the program gave them greater insight into their professional fields and contributed to their subse-

quent educational or career choices and decisions. The program also had positive effects on their behaviour as 96% of respondents shared their Fulbright experiences with others in their home country through a media or community activity, and 83% have incorporated knowledge gained during their Fulbright experience into their subsequent professional activities.

Alumni of the Visiting Fulbright Student Program have also moved into leadership positions in important organisations and sectors of society. 89% of respondents reported that the Fulbright experience enabled them to serve in a leadership capacity in their professions. Nearly half (47%) reported that they had received some type of honour or reward that they feel was wholly or partially attributable to their Visiting Fulbright Student experiences. These honours or rewards consisted of

promotions within the faculty hierarchy and positions of leadership in national or international organisations.

Study results also demonstrate that the program fosters close linkages and ties with the United States. 91% of the survey respondents have maintained active friendships that were established during their programs, and 81% have maintained professional relationships. 62% have revisited the United States, and 58% have participated in conferences, seminars, etc. in or about the United States.

Visiting Fulbright Student Program alumni respondents have overwhelmingly positive impressions of their program. 92% indicated that they were "mostly satisfied" or "very satisfied" with their Fulbright experiences. For more information visit:

<http://exchanges.state.gov/education/evaluations>

STATE ALUMNI
YOUR GLOBAL COMMUNITY

Welcome to State Alumni

An interactive website by and for alumni of selected Department of State Exchange programs

State Alumni is an online community that helps alumni stay in contact with one another and with us at the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. State Alumni is open to all current and past participants of US Government Exchange Programmes worldwide. It can help you share ideas with alumni representing 150 countries; find the latest research in your profession plus career enhancing information, and allow you to participate in live web-chat dialogues with world leaders and experts.

This is intended to be your website, so please feel at home. We have heard a clear and consistent message from alumni and U.S. host families of exchange programs that you want ways to continue the exchange experience after the formal part of the program is over. You want to stay in touch with one another, with us, and with colleagues in the nongovernmental organizations responsible for the programs. Rather than close the book at the end of an exchange program, many of you would like to open a new chapter. State Alumni is an effort to do just that. It offers you:

- Calendar of upcoming professional events in every region of the globe.
- Searchable database of tens of thousands of alumni and US contacts

- Free Research Database of Academic Journals
- Job listings and career development information.
- Grant opportunity listings
- Live online discussions
- Discussion forum in English, Russian, Spanish and Portuguese
- Alumni news items
- Photo Gallery

Our vision. Our aim is a website that meets your needs. Membership is entirely voluntary, and we hope it will be worth your while to give this a try. We want the website to be sufficiently interesting and valuable that you will continue with it, and also that you will help us spread the word to other USG alumni and US host families.

Our role. ECA is primarily a facilitator or broker. We have tried to bring together resources you can use to advance your own interests. We hope you can use this site to exchange information on common issues, to establish networks for shared purposes, to collaborate on projects, or even to have some fun. State Alumni is based on the idea of dialogue. It is not a

channel for broadcasting messages. It requires your active participation to make it work.

Our hope. Besides promoting networking among alumni, we also want to hear about your successes and challenges. These serve as examples for possible projects in other countries and help the State Department show that funds have been used effectively. In the USA government budgetary decisions are based more and more on evaluations so your success can help someone else become an exchange participant. The premise of our exchanges is that individuals who are selected on merit and take part in these programs are positively affected by their experiences and that they will do good things when they return home. That is why it is important for us to hear from you—about the good things we know you are doing.

State Alumni is intended to be easy to use, to protect your privacy, and to address your needs and interests. We hope you will like it enough to use it—and to figure out ways to help you do what you want it to do. Find us on:

<https://alumni.state.gov>