



## Inside

- Page 2:** Editorial;  
Grantees give thanks at end of Fulbright year
- Page 3:** Secretary Clinton visits New Zealand;  
Fulbright New Zealand staff train in the US;  
Fulbright ED speaks at Otago graduation
- Page 4:** Alumni News;  
In Memoriam;  
Important Dates
- Page 5:** Alumni Association update;  
Alumni Voice:  
Giving a head start to gifted children
- Page 6:** Awarded;  
Arrivals and Departures
- Page 7:** Grantee Voice:  
The “squeech” and “zing” of agricultural research
- Page 8:** Awards



2011 International Fulbright Science and Technology Award recipient Nick Fancourt with a young patient

## Young doctor takes aim at poor child health

Young Auckland paediatric registrar Dr Nick Fancourt has been selected for a prestigious International Fulbright Science and Technology Award to complete a PhD in the United States of America. The award is valued at over NZ\$350,000 and will cover the full cost of Nick's doctoral study in public health at a leading US university, with Harvard and Johns Hopkins Universities at the top of his wish list. He aims to study towards improving health and development outcomes for children from New Zealand and abroad, particularly those from low socioeconomic backgrounds.

Nick Fancourt was struck by the obvious relationship between children's environment and health as a medical student. While on paediatric experience with a community nurse in the small Taranaki town of Inglewood, he encountered a mother of four burning soiled nappies for heat, whose children each suffered from preventable illnesses including pneumonia and asthma. The well-travelled young doctor has further witnessed the link between poverty and poor health on trips to China, Pakistan and Gambia, and undertook a three month internship with the World Health Organisation in Geneva during his studies at the University of Otago. He is a volunteer for the Child Action Poverty Group and holds a Master of Bioethics and Health Law in addition to his medical degree.

Nick hopes his study in the US will help inform public policy to improve the health of society's most vulnerable children. "I'll be studying the patterns of and influences on childhood diseases, particularly how they are affected by social factors such as poverty," he explains. "One in five children in New Zealand live in poverty, with these children suffering from more disease than others. I hope the skills I gain will be able to inform change on

our poor child health statistics. Understanding these issues is part of the key to improving health for all."

Nick looks forward to the challenges and opportunities of studying in the US, which is home to leading institutions in his field. "This is a chance to look at issues from a new perspective – experiencing a different country, building new networks, and interacting with an internationally diverse group of colleagues. The US hosts the top public health schools in the world. They offer not only research excellence, but a large international student and faculty body that creates a vibrant learning environment."

He adds that "the value of US doctoral training ensures students not only complete in-depth, research-focused study in their topic area, but equips them with the necessary breadth of knowledge and capacity to perform within the wider discipline of public health. The knowledge, skills and relationships developed over four years of study in the US will greatly enhance my career objective to be an international leader in children's health. It offers the ideal adjunct to clinical training, providing sound scientific skill sets to help address health challenges."

Nick is one of just 43 recipients selected for 2011 International Fulbright Science and Technology Awards out of 174 aspiring scientists nominated by Fulbright commissions and US embassies in 81 countries. The awards are funded by the US Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs and are designed to be "the most prestigious international scholarship in science and technology". Fulbright New Zealand is proud that six nominees from New Zealand have been selected in the five years this prestigious programme has been running. ►

## Editorial



Mele Wendt, Executive Director

## From the desk of the Executive Director

Happy New Year to you! We hope you had an enjoyable Holiday season.

We look forward to another fruitful year here at Fulbright New Zealand. In February we will welcome and host the incoming American grantees and their families at orientation in Wellington. Believe it or not but we are also in the process of selecting the next cohort of American Fulbright scholars and students – for 2012!

From 20 to 22 February, the fourth US NZ Partnership Forum will be held in Christchurch, bringing together 100 senior leaders from government and business in a strategic discussion about ways to strengthen the relationship between the two countries. Under the theme “The Power of Partnering: Global Challenges and the Future of the US NZ Partnership”, the Forum is expected to focus significant public attention on the potential of the relationship.

For the first time, a programme called the US NZ Future Partners Forum will run alongside the Forum, bringing together a group of 10 New Zealand and 10 American young people (our US Fulbright students in fact) to discuss and present their views on the future of the US NZ relationship to the wider Partnership Forum. The Future Partners Forum is a joint initiative of the US Embassy, the NZ US Council and Fulbright New Zealand.

In March I will attend the East Asia and Pacific Regional Fulbright Executive Director's Meeting in Korea and it will be my first time there so I am really looking forward to visiting the Fulbright Korea Commission in Seoul and meeting with my ED colleagues in Jeju.

We are working towards implementing soon a new, small travel award programme utilising the bequest monies given late last year by alumna Meg Everton. We anticipate that this programme will enable two or three New Zealand teachers or principals each year to visit the US for a short period to undertake a professional development activity of their choosing. More details will follow soon.

Fulbright New Zealand has a very modest fund to provide small sponsorship grants to assist New Zealand institutions/organisations to bring American scholars, professionals or artists to New Zealand for particular events. The aim is to increase awareness of the Fulbright brand, and sponsorship benefits are expected in return for our support (which is only provided if the project falls outside the usual Fulbright awards). Contact us if you want to enquire further about this.

In terms of a staffing update, Stefanie Joe replaced Martin Boswell as Programme Team Leader in August 2010 and she has made a great start in her role. She and Keri Vanka recently undertook valuable staff training in the US. In March Kara Wood goes on maternity leave for a year and we wish her well for the birth of her first child. Meanwhile, our year is off to a great start and we anticipate another busy year! We hope to see you sometime in 2011.

Hei konei ra, ia manuia and warm regards,

## Fulbright News



Fulbright New Zealand's Thanksgiving at the US Ambassador's residence

## Grantees give thanks at end of Fulbright year

David Huebner, US Ambassador to New Zealand, hosted a Fulbright New Zealand group of American student grantees, staff and Board members for Thanksgiving dinner at his Lower Hutt residence Camperdown in November. The day's events doubled as a formal farewell to the year's dozen Fulbright US Graduate Students, many of who have since returned home after completing their exchange year in New Zealand.

Earlier on Thanksgiving Day, Thursday 25 November, the year's cohort of Fulbright US Graduate Students (with the exception of one who was conducting climate change field research in Antarctica) travelled from around the country to report to each other and Fulbright New Zealand staff and Board members about the success of their academic exchange years in New Zealand. Their study and research programmes covered topics as diverse as labour law reforms, denitrification of agricultural waste waters and health care of pregnant methamphetamine users.

In the afternoon the Fulbright group, along with a small number of grantees' family members and a locally-based former Fulbright US Graduate Student, relocated to the US Ambassador's residence for a traditional family-style Thanksgiving dinner hosted by Ambassador Huebner and his spouse Duane McWaine. The party was expanded with several of Dr McWaine's family members who were visiting from the US, some US Embassy staff members and a handful of Wellington-based Marines and their families. The menu included Southern-style dishes cooked by Dr McWaine, his

mother and aunt, alongside traditional Thanksgiving fare prepared by the residence's staff. Ambassador Huebner and Dr McWaine warmly welcomed the Fulbright group, and were thanked for their generosity by Fulbright New Zealand Board member Stephen Jacobi on behalf of the Fulbright visitors.

Several of the 2010 Fulbright US Graduate Students have extended their stay in New Zealand into or throughout 2011 to complete research before returning home. Their replacements will be welcomed to New Zealand in February alongside the new year's Fulbright US Senior Scholars and Ian Axford Fellows with a week-long orientation programme in Wellington. ►



2010 Fulbright US Graduate Student Mike Roman performs a traditional Kiribati dance as part of his end of year report

## Secretary Clinton visits New Zealand

US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton visited New Zealand for several days in November, as part of a tour of the Asia-Pacific region which was rescheduled from January after the Haiti Earthquake. In New Zealand she met with senior government officials, including Prime Minister John Key, Foreign Minister Murray McCully and Opposition Leader Phil Goff, on a wide range of issues that are important to the bilateral relationship.

In Wellington, Secretary Clinton was welcomed with a pōwhiri at parliament, where she and Minister McCully signed the Wellington Declaration – a new strategic partnership between New Zealand and the United States which reaffirms the close ties between the two nations and establishes the framework for future practical cooperation and political dialogue.

Fulbright New Zealand's Chairperson, Barbara Johnson, and Executive Director, Mele Wendt, were among guests invited to a parliamentary welcome function hosted

by Murray McCully. In her speech at the reception, Secretary Clinton highlighted the many areas of NZ-US cooperation, noting that "Kiwi and American students are studying abroad on Fulbright scholarships and on other programs – exchanging ideas, learning about each other, strengthening personal and national ties".

In the remainder of her busy visit, Secretary Clinton dined with the Prime Minister at his residence in Wellington, met with students and civic leaders, visited the Tomb of the Unknown Warrior, and spent a day in Christchurch where she attended a function at the International Antarctic Center, held a US-style town hall discussion with local citizens, and was hosted at a reception for US exporters by the American Chamber of Commerce.

On her trip to the region Secretary Clinton also visited Hawai'i, Vietnam, Cambodia, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea and finally Australia, where she launched a number of new Fulbright awards. ➤

### Fulbright News



Mele Wendt and Barbara Johnson meet Hillary Clinton

## Fulbright New Zealand staff train in the US

Fulbright New Zealand Programme Team members Stefanie Joe and Kameswari Vanka spent a week in the United States in December, undergoing a staff training programme implemented by the US Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA), and meeting with counterparts at partner organisations involved with the Fulbright programme.

The pair were given a comprehensive two-day induction to the Fulbright programme by ECA staff in Washington, DC, covering administration of Fulbright awards as well as aspects of governance, outreach and promotion of the Fulbright programme. During the course of their training programme they met in person, for the first time, many of the US Department of State staff who administer the Fulbright programme in Washington.

While in Washington, Stefanie and Kameswari also visited the New Zealand Embassy and Georgetown University's Center for Australian and New Zealand Studies, where Fulbright New Zealand sends a Visiting

Scholar in New Zealand Studies each semester. They spent a day with staff at the Council for the International Exchange of Scholars (CIES), the organisation which administers Fulbright Scholar Awards on the American end, before travelling by train to New York.

In New York, Stefanie and Kameswari met with staff at the Institute of International Education (IIE), the organisation which administers Fulbright Student Awards in the US, to discuss the various award programmes and services to student Fulbright grantees. They also met with staff of the Commonwealth Fund, sponsors of the Harkness Fellowships in Health Care Policy and Practice which are administered in New Zealand by Fulbright New Zealand's Programme Team.

Programme Team Leader Stefanie Joe says the trip was invaluable. "Meeting the people we have been dealing with from a distance, and seeing how things work from the US perspective has added a new dimension to our understanding of the Fulbright programme." ➤

## Fulbright ED speaks at Otago graduation

Fulbright New Zealand's Executive Director, Mele Wendt, was invited to speak at the University of Otago's graduation ceremony for students of arts, music, law and theology in December, where she took the opportunity to reflect on her own upbringing and education experiences. The ceremony was held at Dunedin Town Hall, with 310 students having their degrees conferred or diplomas awarded in person.

Mele Wendt gave the graduation address, in which she encouraged graduates to take the opportunity to reflect on their past and the people who had helped them arrive at this special point in their lives. She talked about her upbringing in Samoa and move to New Zealand for university study on a New Zealand government scholarship. She graduated with an arts degree from Victoria University of Wellington in 1989.

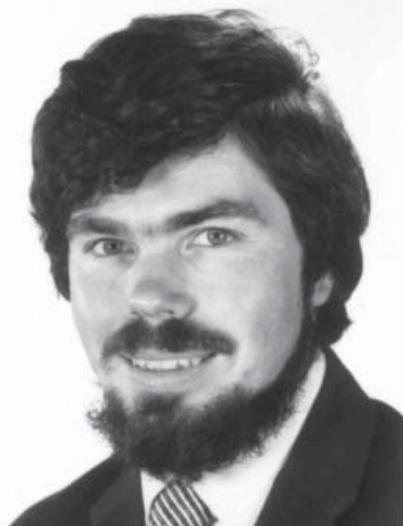
Mele gave the new graduates words of advice from American poet (and Fulbright alumna) Maya Angelou: "You can only become truly accomplished at something

you love. Don't make money your goal. Instead, pursue the things you love doing, and then do them so well that people can't take their eyes off you." ➤



Mele Wendt addresses the University of Otago graduation ceremony in December (photo: McRobie Studios)

## In Brief



Warren Tate, 1972

## Alumni News

Fulbright alumna **Cilla McQueen** (1984 Visiting Writers Fellowship) was awarded the Prime Minister's Award for Literary Achievement in poetry in November. The Prime Minister's Awards for Literary Achievement are administered by Creative New Zealand and presented annually to writers who have made a significant contribution to New Zealand literature in three categories – fiction, non-fiction and poetry – each of whom receives a \$60,000 prize. Past recipients have included Fulbright alumni CK Stead, Bill Manhire, Vincent O'Sullivan, Anne Salmond and Michael King.

Fulbright alumnus and poet **Alistair Paterson** (1977 NZ Technical Study Grant) was featured in the November 2010 issue of New Zealand poetry periodical *broadsheet*, which included several of Alistair's own poems, an essay about his 1973 collection *Birds Flying* and poems written for the occasion by a number of his friends and contemporaries. Alistair is an editor, novelist, critic and poet. To find out more about the current issue of *broadsheet* or read it online, visit <http://headworx.eyesis.co.nz/broadsheet/>

Fulbright alumnus **Gareth Farr** (1990 NZ Graduate Student) was one of five New Zealand artists honoured with Arts Foundation Laureate Awards in November. The annual awards celebrate New Zealand artists who have a proven track-record, awarding each recipient \$50,000 in recognition of their artistic achievement and as a challenge for them to continue working at high levels. Gareth told *The Dominion Post* the prize money would allow him to develop his own ideas and do more pro bono work. Established in 2000, the impressive order of Arts Laureates includes fellow Fulbright alumni Jack Body, Phil Dadson, Witi Ihimaera, Bill Manhire, Simon O'Neill, Peter Peryer, John Psathas and Ian Wedde.

Harkness alumnus **Ken McNatty** (1977 Harkness Fellowship) was awarded the New Zealand Association of Scientists' Shorland Medal in November, in recognition of his "major and continued contribution to basic or applied research that has added significantly to scientific understanding or resulted in significant benefits to society". Ken is a world-leading authority in the study of reproductive biology, whose pioneering work on reproduction in sheep and cattle has had huge economic benefit for farmers. His current work at Victoria University of Wellington is in human reproductive biology, aimed at identifying how to select healthy eggs for in vitro fertilisation.

Fulbright alumnus **Warren Tate** (1972 NZ Graduate Award) was awarded New Zealand's highest science and technology honour, the Rutherford Medal, in November for his outstanding achievements in molecular biology and molecular neuroscience. The award includes

\$100,000 in prize money from the New Zealand government. In announcing the award, the Royal Society of New Zealand's president, Garth Carnaby, noted that Warren's groundbreaking discoveries in understanding fundamental elements of cell biology have made a huge contribution to health research, with potential for treating a range of diseases including HIV, Alzheimer's and chronic fatigue syndrome.

Also in November, the Royal Society of New Zealand announced the inaugural recipients of research grants under the new government-funded Rutherford Discovery Fellowships scheme, which provides early to mid-career researchers with financial support of up to \$200,000 per year for five years towards their salary and programme of work. Included in the first ten recipients was Fulbright alumna **Jennifer Hay** (1995 NZ Graduate Student), whose current research at the University of Canterbury is into episodic word memory.

Fulbright alumni **Tamati Reedy** (1982 NZ Senior Scholar) and **David Baragwanath** (1982 NZ Travel Award) were appointed as Knights Companion of the Order of New Zealand in the recent New Year Honours, for their services to education and as a Judge of the Court of Appeal respectively. Other alumni honoured at the New Year include **Miriam Dean** (1982 NZ Graduate Student) and **Ian Warrington** (1974 Harkness Fellowships) who were both appointed as Companions of the Order, Miriam for service to law and business and Ian for services to science. Fulbright alumnus **Maurice Gianotti** (1986 NZ Educational Development Grant) was appointed as an Officer of the Order of New Zealand for services to education and the community.

Fulbright alumnus **Bill Keith** (1978 NZ Graduate Student) has been honoured by the American Academy of Audiology with its International Award in Hearing, announced in January. The award honours and recognises achievements of international significance by an audiologist, hearing scientist or audiological physician outside the US. Bill was honoured for his achievements as an audiologist, entrepreneur, businessman, advocate and humanitarian. ►

See the Fulbright New Zealand website for more alumni news – [www.fulbright.org.nz/alumni](http://www.fulbright.org.nz/alumni)

Alumni, please keep us up-to-date with your news and achievements, by email to [andy@fulbright.org.nz](mailto:andy@fulbright.org.nz)

## In Memoriam

We are saddened by the recent passing of the following alumni:

**Rex Honey**, 1987 US Research Scholar  
**Philip Lawrence**, 1957 NZ Visiting Lecturer  
**TW Walker**, 1967 NZ Visiting Lecturer ►

## Important Dates

- March  
 1 Fulbright-Harkness New Zealand Fellowship applications close  
 Ian Axford (New Zealand) Fellowships in Public Policy applications close
- April  
 1 Fulbright-Creative New Zealand Pacific Writer's Residency applications close  
 Fulbright New Zealand Travel Awards applications close  
 Fulbright-Ngā Pae o te Māramatanga Travel Awards in Indigenous Development applications close  
 Fulbright Specialist Awards applications close

See [www.fulbright.org.nz](http://www.fulbright.org.nz) or contact the Fulbright New Zealand office for more details

## Alumni Association update

I have recently returned from participating in an International Visitor Leadership Programme on alumni leadership. I was privileged to spend three weeks in the United States working and travelling with alumni leaders from 31 nations. We met and worked with many voluntary organisations and their inspirational leaders. I was particularly impressed with the way in which 31 strangers from different nations, cultures, religions, professions and perspectives came together and worked harmoniously and professionally, and generated friendships across the board. There is something really special about being part of this alumni community.

The IVLP programme reinforced that the Fulbright New Zealand Alumni Association does not exist in isolation but is part of a major global network of developing or strengthening associations. The US Department of State's Office of Alumni Affairs has a strong focus on consolidating and building a global network of alumni to foster positive international relations "one handshake at a time". The importance and urgency of this work and the role of alumni globally was a strong message.

Successful associations gather their alumni community around a common purpose and are alumni driven. I hope I can get to meet as many members and alumni as possible in the coming year to engage in discussion around how we can further move in this direction.

In the meantime, we are in the process of welcoming the new US grantees for 2011 including alumni home hosting experiences for most of them. Recently returned New Zealand grantees are also being welcomed as alumni with a year's free membership of the Association. Regional coordinators arranged 21 activities in 2010 and are now working on plans for a range of activities in 2011.

Thanks again to members for your continuing support. If you are not a member you can find a membership application form on the Association's website – [www.fnzaa.org](http://www.fnzaa.org) – along with the latest news.

*Graham Cochrane*

Graham Cochrane, FNZAA Chairperson ►

## Alumni Association

**FULBRIGHT  
NEW ZEALAND  
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION**



**TE WHAKAWHITINGA  
AOTEAROA-AMERIKA**

## Giving a head start to gifted children

**Fulbright alumna Dr Jenny Horsley from Victoria University of Wellington was the inaugural recipient of the Fulbright-Cognition Scholar Award in Education Research. In 2009 she spent three months at Johns Hopkins University's world-leading Center for Talented Youth (CTY), learning techniques for identifying and catering to gifted children.**

***Your Fulbright research was aimed at increasing representation of ethnic minorities in programmes for gifted children. How exactly is this a problem in New Zealand, and what ideas do you now have to overcome it?***

Within New Zealand there are ethnic groups who are not attaining academic outcomes that are commensurate with those achieved by other groups. For example, when compared with Asian and European students, Māori and Pasifika students are under-represented in the NCEA data that shows high academic achievement. CTY identifies high (or potentially high) ability students from specific ethnic groups. They offer these students access to a number of programmes designed to support high-ability students. Evaluations show that these students are able to demonstrate improved academic outcomes following participation in these programmes. This would suggest that providing similar opportunities for Māori and Pasifika students could also improve academic outcomes for them.

***What are some other best practises you discovered at CTY for gifted education?***

One of the strengths of the CTY program is the ability to firstly, use standardised national testing to identify high ability students, and secondly, offer them – and their families – a range of programs and services targeted at further enhancing the students' personal development. Students are offered participation in summer programs, online courses and family academic programs. In addition, students from low socio-economic backgrounds are provided with assistive funding to enable them to be part of these programs.

***What simple things can practising New Zealand teachers do to identify and support gifted students?***

If teachers are doing nothing else, they can use the assessment data they are required to collect to plan to meet these students' academic needs. This may involve differentiating or accelerating the learning to provide a curriculum to match the student's ability, and not necessarily their age. Broadly speaking, teachers need to differentiate the process, the content and the end product for high ability students. If these three things are the same for all students in the class, then it's likely that those who are most able are not having their needs met. It's also important that students have choice in their learning and that underpinning all of this is a culturally responsive environment.

***You have been very active in the gifted education arena since returning to New Zealand. What activities/initiatives you have you been involved with?***

The main initiative has involved working with Cognition Education on a Ministry of Education project aimed at providing gifted services to Māori and Pasifika students and students in low decile schools. It has been a wonderful opportunity to work beside motivated and enthusiastic teachers who have differentiated their regular classroom planning in order to meet the needs of these students.

***The Fulbright-Cognition Scholar Award encourages applicants from across the education sector. Would you encourage more people in the sector to take an active interest in research?***

Absolutely! I firmly believe that all classroom teachers are researchers, as they are continually collecting and using data to make informed decisions about classroom planning. Effectiveness in education is measured through outcomes. If we aren't collecting evidence of improved outcomes, then how do we know our teaching is making a difference? Awards such as the Fulbright-Cognition Scholar Award provide teachers with an opportunity to research an aspect of their practice that they would like to investigate further. Importantly, it enables New Zealand teachers to establish international connections that can support them in improving outcomes for all their learners. ►

## Alumni Voice



Jenny Horsley

*"I firmly believe that all classroom teachers are researchers... If we aren't collecting evidence of improved outcomes, then how do we know our teaching is making a difference?"*

## Awarded

### Fulbright New Zealand Travel Awards

Lisette Burrows (see Departures)

Gemma Dickson (see Departures)

Sian Halcrow (see Departures)

Janet Hoek from the University of Otago will present papers on marketing regulation of tobacco control at the American Marketing Association's 2011 Marketing and Public Policy Conference in Washington, DC.

Rhonda Shaw (see Departures)

### Fulbright Specialist Awards

Pat Gaffney (see Arrivals) ►

## Arrivals and Departures

### Arrivals:

#### Fulbright US Graduate Awards

Patrick Behrer from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania will complete a Postgraduate Diploma in Environmental Studies, specialising in barriers to entry into New Zealand's forestry compliance carbon market, at Victoria University of Wellington. Patrick arrives in February.

Ellie Bors from Bellevue, Washington will research genetic effects of deep sea fishing on marine invertebrates, at the National Institute of Water and Atmosphere (NIWA). Ellie arrives in February.

Laura Kehrl from Everett, Washington will complete a Master of Science degree in Geology, specialising in the effects of climate change on the Brewster Glacier, at Victoria University of Wellington. Laura arrived in January.

Jens Lund Snee from Evergreen, Colorado will complete a Certificate of Proficiency in Geology, specialising in mapping and analysis of the Alpine Fault, at the University of Otago. Jens arrived in January.

Tom McFadden from Sacramento, California will complete a Master of Science degree in Communications, specialising in science communication in the digital age, at the University of Otago. Tom arrived in January.

Elli Nagai-Rothe from San Francisco, California will research the Human Rights Commission's work on addressing racial inequality in New Zealand, at the University of Auckland. Elli arrived in January.

Sunshine Prior from Plano, Texas will complete a Master of Science degree in Cross-Cultural Psychology, specialising in mental and social health variations among New Zealand and Māori deaf communities, at Victoria University of Wellington. Sunshine arrived in January.

Kyle Rosenblad from Shelburne, Vermont is researching the effects of exotic plant species on native flora, at Lincoln University. Kyle arrived in October.

Rebecca Stahl from Phoenix, Arizona will complete a Master of Laws degree, specialising in New Zealand's Family Court system, at the University of Otago. Rebecca arrived in January.

#### Fulbright US Senior Scholar Awards

Frank Alcock from New College of Florida will research New Zealand's emissions trading scheme and lecture about the politics of cap and trade systems, at Victoria University of Wellington. Frank arrived in January.

Mike Emch from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill will research spatial and social patterns of smoking and smoking cessation in New Zealand, at the University of Canterbury. Mike arrives in February.

Chris Lubinski from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign will research school enrolment policies and their impact on equity patterns in New Zealand, and teach courses on equity and leadership in education, at the University of Waikato. Chris arrived in January.

Jeff Matsuura from Alliance Law Group will research legal and policy approaches to emerging technologies in New Zealand and the United States, at the University of Otago. Jeff arrived in January.

Lesley Wheeler from Washington and Lee University will research links between poets and communities in the 21st century, and lecture about American poetry, at Victoria University of Wellington. Lesley arrived in January.

### Fulbright Specialist Awards

Victoria University of Wellington will host Pat Gaffney from the University of Delaware, who will give lectures and workshops on marine genetics. Pat arrives in February.

### Ian Axford (New Zealand) Fellowships in Public Policy

Ian Boisvert from Edgcomb Law Group will research development of an allocation regime for marine energy in New Zealand, at the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Authority (EECA). Ian arrived in December.

Vicki Johnson from the National Commission on Children and Disasters will research New Zealand's national school disaster preparedness programme, at the Ministry of Civil Defence and Emergency Management. Victoria arrived in January.

Jonathan Karp from the US Securities and Exchange Commission will research New Zealand's model for corporate financial disclosure, at the Securities Commission. Jonathan arrived in December.

David Wiley from the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration will research the success of scientific research in influencing decision-making for marine protected areas, at the Department of Conservation. David arrived in January.

### Departures:

#### Fulbright New Zealand Senior Scholar Awards

Rachel Vernon from EIT Hawke's Bay will research development of a model for assessing continuing competence of nurses, at the University of California, San Francisco. Rachel departs in March.

Gwenda Willis from Victoria University of Wellington will research American sex offender treatment programmes following the New Zealand-developed Good Lives Model, at Lynn University in Boca Raton, Florida. Gwenda departs in February.

#### Fulbright-Cognition Scholar Awards in Education Research

Veronica O'Toole from the University of Canterbury will research the development of an emotional literacy programme for New Zealand educators and students, at Yale University in New Haven, Connecticut and Wichita State University in Wichita, Kansas. Veronica departs in April.

#### Fulbright New Zealand Travel Awards

Lisette Burrows from the University of Otago will present a paper entitled *Fat Porkies in School: Governing the healthy child in New Zealand physical education* at the American Education Research Association's 2011 Annual Meeting in New Orleans, Louisiana. Lisette departs in April.

Gemma Dickson from the University of Otago will present a paper entitled *Profiling of marine microbial communities associated with decomposing remains can indicate postmortem submersion interval* at the American Academy of Forensic Sciences' 63rd Annual Scientific Meeting in Chicago, Illinois. Gemma departs in February.

Sian Halcrow from the University of Otago will present a paper entitled *Testing the Neolithic Demographic Transition: A case study from South Asia* at the American Association of Physical Anthropologists' 80th Annual Scientific Meeting in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Sian departs in March.

Rhonda Shaw from Victoria University of Wellington will give seminars on tissue exchange, organ donation and transplantation research at The Hastings Center in Garrison, New York and Yale University in New Haven, Connecticut. Rhonda departs in March.

## The “squeech” and “zing” of agricultural research

Laura Christianson from Ames, Iowa was a 2010 Fulbright US Graduate Student at Massey University in Palmerston North, where she researched the use of woodchip bioreactors for nitrate removal from agricultural drainage waters. Shortly before returning to the US, Laura reflected on the sights and sounds of her year of agricultural research in New Zealand.

The “squeech” of stepping in a cow pat or the “zing” of brushing an electrified fence were two noises that quietly added excitement to my Fulbright research. For me, the winter of 2010 conjures memories of navigating Massey University’s dairy pastures to collect water samples from my denitrification bioreactors, a new treatment to remove nitrate pollution from New Zealand’s agricultural drainage waters. This project was built upon other work I’m doing for my PhD where I’m investigating these bioreactors for treating nitrate in agricultural drainage from cropped fields in the US Midwest. My colleagues in the Soil and Earth Sciences group at Massey were ideal hosts; their interest in and support of my project far exceeded what I could have hoped for... and their advice about the electric fences was well heeded!

I expected my Fulbright studies to contribute a unique “international dimension” chapter to my dissertation, but I am extremely pleased that this work also facilitated several additional collaborations where I gathered new ideas and learned different techniques. Though my research mainly involves agricultural waters, the complexity of the nitrogen cycle means that sometimes when nitrate is removed from water, the nitrogen can reappear in the air as nitrous oxide, a potent greenhouse gas. Greenhouse gas research work is especially important in New Zealand as the per capita agricultural greenhouse gas emission is considered high among developed countries. The internationally recognized expertise in agricultural greenhouse gases conveniently located in Palmerston North was perfect for my collaborations in this field. Gas sampling from the surface of my denitrification bioreactors was a new experience for me; I found it slightly bewildering to collect a gas sample and have the sample container still look empty. In addition to the “squeech” and “zing” of my field studies, gas sampling added the (frustrating) excitement of “pssst” – the sound of a meticulously evacuated gas sample vial being accidentally vented to the air! I plan to finish my PhD in December 2011, after which I’m leaving the door open to other noisily exciting professional opportunities.

On a more personal note, when my husband, Reid, and I first arrived in late January, we had a short conversation that consisted of: “What are all those white rocks? Oh, sheep.” I reluctantly admit that we have four agricultural engineering degrees between us... Fortunately, Reid had some hands-on experience with the Kiwi sheep industry by “farm-sitting” at my department head’s farm while my research group attended a soil science conference in Brisbane. Reid wasn’t too worried about the arrangement until he realized it was lambing season. In the end, only one sheep didn’t make it though the week (natural causes, I’m sure), and when all was said and done, the farm had a handful of more baby “white rocks” running around.

Our professional interests in agriculture led to an interesting perspective on our sightseeing around the country. Though we like to use the engineering term

of high beauty “density” to describe the wilds of the country, the agricultural sector is never far from the eye. From center pivot irrigators in the Canterbury Plain to delicious looking horticulture in Hawkes Bay, it seems this industry is a source of pride for many Kiwis. This culture strikes an interesting balance with the desire to conserve and protect natural resources, which is also close to many Kiwis’ hearts. I heard a lot of controversy about the slogan “100% Pure New Zealand”. New Zealand has an interesting challenge ahead: to sustainably balance the economic and cultural value of agricultural production with the intrinsic value and “purity” of its natural resources. I look forward to tuning in to New Zealand’s discussions of this while watching for similarities and differences with the US in agricultural policies, regulations, and public opinion.

When not traveling the fabulous New Zealand countryside, we found we fit in perfectly with our home city, Palmerston North. The fact we fit in so well was a bit dismaying when we learned that the city doesn’t have a reputation for being, well, the most exciting place in the world. Nevertheless, whether we were enjoying the student culture at the uni or going for a run along “one of the ten most polluted rivers in the western world” (we’re still looking into that...), Palmy provided an ideal backdrop for this quiet American couple. At home in Palmy, it was fabulous to play violin with the Manawatu Symphonia. Being able to borrow a several thousand dollar violin, free of charge, would only happen in New Zealand. The Symphonia has provided a learning experience in addition to my research; who would have guessed a “crotchet” was a quarter note?! ▶



Laura Christianson at work on a denitrification bioreactor (above) and with husband Reid at Lake Matheson (below)



### Grantee Voice



Laura Christianson

*“New Zealand has an interesting challenge ahead: to sustainably balance the economic and cultural value of agricultural production with the intrinsic value and “purity” of its natural resources.”*

Fulbright New Zealand Quarterly is published in February, May, August and November by:

Fulbright New Zealand  
Level 8, 120 Featherston Street  
PO Box 3465  
Wellington 6140  
New Zealand

Tel: +64 4 472 2065  
Fax: +64 4 499 5364  
Email: [info@fulbright.org.nz](mailto:info@fulbright.org.nz)  
[www.fulbright.org.nz](http://www.fulbright.org.nz)

#### Editor:

Andy Mitchell,  
Communications Adviser  
[andy@fulbright.org.nz](mailto:andy@fulbright.org.nz)

We welcome your letters and articles. Any material submitted may be edited for publication. While every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of material in this newsletter, Fulbright New Zealand does not accept liability for any errors or omissions. Opinions expressed are not necessarily those of Fulbright New Zealand.

Please keep us updated of address changes, so we can keep in touch.

This newsletter is also distributed electronically by email. If you would prefer to receive this format, please let us know.

Fulbright New Zealand gratefully acknowledges the sponsorship of:



## Awards

Fulbright awards recognise individuals who show academic or professional excellence, leadership potential and the ability to be cultural ambassadors for their country. Fulbright New Zealand offers or administers the following awards and fellowships:

#### Fulbright-Harkness New Zealand Fellowship

For an emerging New Zealand leader in any field of study or vocation (excluding health care policy and practice) to study or research in the US for a minimum of six weeks. Valued at NZ\$15,000. **Applications close 1 March 2011**

#### Ian Axford (New Zealand) Fellowships in Public Policy

For outstanding mid-career US professionals to research and gain firsthand experience of public policy in New Zealand for seven months. Valued at up to NZ\$45,500 plus travel. **Applications close 1 March 2011**

#### Fulbright-Creative New Zealand Pacific Writer's Residency

For a New Zealand writer of Pacific heritage to carry out work on a creative writing project exploring Pacific identity, culture or history at the University of Hawai'i for three months. Valued at NZ\$30,000. **Applications close 1 April 2011**

#### Fulbright New Zealand Travel Awards

For New Zealand academics, artists or professionals to visit the US for 12 to 90 days in order to present their work to American audiences. Valued at up to NZ\$5,000. **Applications close 1 April, 1 July and 1 November 2011**

#### Fulbright-Ngā Pae o Te Māramatanga Travel Awards in Indigenous Development

For New Zealand academics, artists or professionals to visit the US for 12 to 90 days in order to present their work on a theme of indigenous development to American audiences. Valued at up to NZ\$5,000. **Applications close 1 April, 1 July and 1 November 2011**

#### Fulbright Specialist Awards

For New Zealand academic institutions to host US academics, artists or professionals for two to six week programmes of lectures, seminars, workshops, conferences or symposiums. Valued at up to NZ\$8,400 plus travel. **Applications close 1 April, 1 July and 1 November 2011**

#### International Fulbright Science and Technology Awards

For promising graduate students from around the world to undertake fully-funded PhD study at top US universities in fields of science, technology or engineering. Valued at over NZ\$350,000. **Applications close 1 May 2011**

#### Fulbright New Zealand Senior Scholar Awards

For New Zealand academics, artists or professionals to lecture and/or conduct research in the US for three to five months. Valued at up to US\$32,500 plus travel. **Applications close 1 July 2011**

#### Fulbright Visiting Scholar Awards in New Zealand Studies

For New Zealand academics to conduct research and teach New Zealand Studies at Georgetown University in Washington, DC for one or two semesters. Valued at up to US\$32,500 plus travel. **Applications close 1 July 2011**

#### Fulbright-Cognition Scholar Award in Education Research

For a New Zealand educator or scholar to pursue research in the US designed to have an impact on New Zealand early childhood education or primary/secondary schooling and student achievement, for three to five months. Valued at up to US\$32,500 plus travel. **Applications close 1 July 2011**

#### Fulbright-Ngā Pae o Te Māramatanga Scholar Award

For a New Zealand academic, artist or professional to conduct research and/or lecture in the US for three to five months in a field of indigenous development. Valued at up to US\$32,500 plus travel. **Applications close 1 July 2011**

#### Fulbright-Ministry of Research, Science & Technology Graduate Awards

For promising New Zealand graduate students to undertake postgraduate study or research at US institutions in fields targeted to support growth and innovation in New Zealand. Valued at up to US\$25,000 plus travel. **Applications close 1 August 2011**

#### Fulbright-EQC Graduate Award in Natural Disaster Research

For a promising New Zealand graduate student to undertake postgraduate study or research at a US institution in the field of natural disaster research. Valued at up to US\$25,000 plus travel. **Applications close 1 August 2011**

#### Fulbright-Ngā Pae o Te Māramatanga Graduate Award

For a promising New Zealand graduate student to undertake postgraduate study or research at a US institution in a field of indigenous development. Valued at up to US\$25,000 plus travel. **Applications close 1 August 2011**

#### Fulbright New Zealand General Graduate Awards

For promising New Zealand graduate students to undertake postgraduate study or research at US institutions in any field. Valued at up to US\$25,000 plus travel. **Applications close 1 August 2011**

#### Fulbright-Wallace Arts Trust Award

For an outstanding mid-career or senior New Zealand visual artist to undertake a three-month residency at Headlands Center for the Arts in Sausalito, California. Valued at over US\$30,000. **Applications close 1 August 2011**

#### Fulbright US Senior Scholar Awards

For US academics, artists or professionals to lecture and/or conduct research in New Zealand for three to five months. Valued at up to NZ\$32,500 plus travel. **Applications close 1 August 2011**

#### Harkness Fellowships in Health Care Policy and Practice

For promising New Zealand health policy researchers and practitioners to conduct a policy-orientated research project and work with leading health policy experts in the US for up to 12 months. Valued at up to US\$107,000. **Applications close 12 September 2011**

#### Fulbright US Graduate Awards

For promising US graduate students to undertake postgraduate study or research in any field at New Zealand institutions. Valued at up to NZ\$30,000 plus travel. **Applications close 17 October 2011**

For further information and application forms please visit [www.fulbright.org.nz/awards](http://www.fulbright.org.nz/awards) or contact Fulbright New Zealand's Programme and Advising Team.