



ISSN 1177-0376 (print)  
ISSN 1177-7885 (online)

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2011 Fulbright US Graduate Students (l-r) Kyle Rosenblad, Sunshine Prior, Patrick Behrer and Elli Nagai-Rothe with Christchurch Mayor Bob Parker at the NZ US Partnership Forum (photo: US Embassy New Zealand)

## Fulbright students meet with Future Partners

A group of Fulbright US Graduate Students represented the youth of their country at the inaugural Future Partners Forum in Christchurch in February, shortly after arriving in New Zealand to commence their exchange year. The Future Partners Forum was organised in parallel to the fourth annual NZ US Partnership Forum, a high level gathering of New Zealand and US government, business and community representatives working to further the bilateral relationship.

The Future Partners Forum involved nine young Americans (eight 2011 Fulbright US Graduate Students and one from 2010) meeting with a similar number of young New Zealanders to discuss the future of the bilateral relationship from a youthful perspective. The twenty delegates attended the opening ceremony of the main Partnership Forum before breaking off to commence their own discussions.

Participants were welcomed and briefed by dignitaries including the Prime Minister of New Zealand, John Key, and US Ambassador to New Zealand, David Huebner. They then turned to discussion of a number of areas where New Zealand and the US can work together to tackle major global challenges. Their talks took place under the guidance of facilitator Therese Arseneau, a Senior Fellow in Political Studies at the University of Canterbury, with a summary report to be presented to the Partnership Forum's closing session.

The Partnership and Future Partners Forums were interrupted at lunch time on the final day, 22 February, by the major Christchurch earthquake. Participants were promptly evacuated to Wellington, where the Future Partners reconvened in early April to conclude their discussion and present their findings to a select

audience including Stephen Jacobi, organiser of the NZ US Partnership Forum, and representatives of Fulbright New Zealand, the US Embassy and the Fulbright New Zealand Alumni Association. Their summary was then presented again to Partnership Forum delegates at a rescheduled closing session in Auckland on 20 April.

The Future Partners acknowledged the swift response and bilateral co-operation following the Christchurch earthquake, and called for the same dedication and unity of action to address "slow-motion crises" including climate change, global poverty and social inequity. They challenged their status as "future partners" and urged the engagement of youth as "current partners" instead, in an intergenerational conversation working towards long-term solutions to long-term problems. A summary of their thoughts and conclusions is available on the Fulbright New Zealand website – [www.fulbright.org.nz](http://www.fulbright.org.nz) ➤



Hon John Key, Prime Minister of New Zealand, addresses the Future Partners Forum (photo: NZ US Council)

## Editorial



Mele Wendt, Executive Director

## From the desk of the Executive Director

Kia ora, Talofa lava and warm Fulbright greetings to you.

We have hit the ground running in 2011 which is already proving to be a busy and productive year. In February we welcomed this year's Fulbright grantees and Axford Fellows from the United States with our traditional orientation programme, which continues to go from strength to strength. This year's programme included for the first time overnight homestays with the families of Wellington-based Fulbright alumni, whose warm hospitality was greatly appreciated. Our thanks to the Fulbright New Zealand Alumni Association for organising these and initial airport meetings/homestays for the grantees as they first arrived in New Zealand. Thanks also to the alumni hosts, speakers and guides who helped us induct these American grantees to life in New Zealand.

In February the bulk of this year's Fulbright US Graduate Students (and one from last year) were involved in the Future Partners Forum in Christchurch, an event organised by the NZ US Council, the US Embassy and ourselves to run alongside the NZ US Partnership Forum. The American Fulbright students spent time in dialogue with New Zealand students to examine the bilateral relationship from a youthful perspective.

Our visit to Christchurch was interrupted on the last day of the Forum by the major magnitude 6.3 earthquake. I was with the students at the AMI Stadium when the earthquake struck, and it was a terrifying experience. Fortunately the stadium building wasn't too badly damaged, and we were promptly evacuated to the

International Antarctic Centre and then on to Wellington by Air Force Hercules on the evening of the quake. Our sincere thanks to the NZ US Council, the Royal New Zealand Air Force and the US Embassy New Zealand for taking such great care of our staff and grantees when disaster struck. We were glad to hear of the safety of many other Fulbright grantees and alumni in the region, and thank those who have donated or otherwise supported rescue, recovery and rebuilding efforts in the Garden City. In the spirit of resilience and co-operation evident following the earthquake, the Future Partners and NZ US Partnership Forums were concluded at subsequent meetings in Wellington and Auckland in April.

In March I flew to Korea to meet with fellow Fulbright directors from the East Asia and Pacific region. As always, it was great to catch up with colleagues and share ideas as we look to consolidate and build the Fulbright programme in our respective countries.

Congratulations to Kara Wood, our Programme Manager and Educational Adviser whose son Alexander was born on 3 April. Kara's position is being filled by Ron Mitchell for the 12 month duration of her maternity leave. And we also welcome Dawn Ferguson who is doing some business development work for us.

Hei konei ra, ia manuia and warm regards,

## Fulbright News



Grantees and their hosts at Waiwhetū Marae in Lower Hutt

## American grantees oriented to New Zealand

**Fulbright New Zealand welcomed 18 new American exchange participants to New Zealand in February with an intensive week-long orientation programme designed to highlight the unique attributes of their host country. The nine Fulbright US Graduate Students, five Fulbright US Senior Scholars and four Ian Axford Fellows in Public Policy will study, research or teach at universities and government organisations in New Zealand over the next three to twelve months.**

As part of a well-developed annual orientation programme, the incoming grantees were welcomed with a pōwhiri and stayed overnight at Waiwhetū Marae in Lower Hutt, and during the programme visited Te Papa Tongarewa The Museum of New Zealand, Ōtari-Wilton's Bush and Parliament.

A series of lectures and seminars throughout the week introduced participants to New Zealand, Māori and Pacific history, culture and language, and New Zealand's unique flora and fauna. As usual a number of Fulbright alumni were among the orientation week's speakers – botanist John Dawson led a guided tour of Ōtari-Wilton's Bush, historian Jock Phillips from *Te Ara: The Encyclopedia of New Zealand* gave a snapshot of New Zealand culture, Victoria University of Wellington lecturer Jon Johansson gave an introduction to New Zealand politics, and Green Party MP Kennedy Graham reflected on life in parliament.

For the first time, grantees were home-hosted overnight by local Fulbright alumni as part of their orientation, an initiative co-ordinated by the Wellington region of

the Fulbright New Zealand Alumni Association. This builds on the warm welcome extended to new grantees by the Association since its formation in recent years, and has proven a popular addition to the orientation programme.

This year's Fulbright and Axford Fellowship grantees will study and research topics as diverse as race relations, fault mapping, emissions trading schemes, smoking cessation and financial disclosure. Fulbright grantees and Axford Fellows are based at most of the universities around the New Zealand, as well as crown research institutes and other government organisations in Wellington. ►



Fulbright alumnus John Dawson shows grantees an 800-year old rimu tree, the oldest at Ōtari-Wilton's Bush

## Changes to Fulbright Board and staff

There were several changes to the Fulbright New Zealand Board of Directors at its most recent meeting in March. The first Board meeting of each year requires the election of officers, and the March meeting saw several changes to the membership and officers of the Board. Two new staff members have also been welcomed in recent months.

At the March Board meeting Barbara Johnson was re-elected as Chair for a partial term until the July 2011 Board meeting, when her tenure on the Fulbright New Zealand Board expires. Stephen Jacobi stepped down as Deputy Chairperson of Fulbright New Zealand. Elected to replace him in that position was Helen Anderson, a Fulbright alumna and former CEO of the Ministry of Research, Science and Technology. Treasurer Richard Nelson also stepped down from his post at the March meeting, and was replaced by Mark Fitz-Gerald, Head of Wealth at Westpac. Both Stephen Jacobi and Richard Nelson remain on the Board.

At the same Board meeting long-serving American Board member Suzanne Snively was farewelled after 17 years service (including seven years as Chairperson). An engaged and valued alumna, Suzanne will continue to offer Fulbright New Zealand her expertise in fundraising matters.

Two new staff members have joined Fulbright New Zealand since the new year. Ron Mitchell joined the team on a fixed-term contract as Programme Manager and Educational Adviser to cover Kara Wood's year of maternity leave. Dawn Ferguson has been appointed on a fixed term contract as Business Development Adviser to work with the Executive Director on business development, fundraising and external relations in order to grow and diversify the operation. ➤

Read more about recently-farewelled Board member Suzanne Snively on Page 5 of this newsletter



Ron Mitchell

## Fulbright alumni share thoughts on education

A select group of Fulbright New Zealand alumni joined practising teachers to discuss the "life cycle" of teaching careers in New Zealand at a round table event in Wellington in May. The pilot 'Thought Leaders' dinner was organised by the Fulbright New Zealand Alumni Association and Fulbright award partner the Cognition Institute, and will be repeated in Auckland in May.

Six Fulbright alumni joined an equal number of practitioners from the education sector to share ideas for shaping education practice, policy and research for the future. The discussion was centred around an essay by Rose Hipkins from the New Zealand Council for Educational Research entitled *Life cycles and sigmoid curves; biological metaphors for professional growth*, which prompted rich conversation about the challenges of a teaching career, how teachers can be supported in their professional development, and the landscape for teaching in the near future.

A summary of ideas generated during the round table discussion will be posted on the Cognition Institute website shortly – [www.cognitioninstitute.org](http://www.cognitioninstitute.org) ➤



Fulbright alumni and other thought leaders discuss the "life cycle" of teaching careers in New Zealand

## Regional Fulbright EDs meet in Korea

Executive Directors from seven Fulbright commissions in the East Asia and Pacific region met in Korea in March to discuss common issues affecting administration of the Fulbright programme across the region.

The group assembled at the Korean-American Educational Commission offices in Seoul before relocating to a hotel on Jeju Island for their discussions. Topics of discussion amongst the Executive Directors from Korea, Indonesia, Malaysia, New Zealand, the Philippines, Taiwan and Thailand included succession planning, diversification of research programmes, budgetary considerations and the changing face of the Fulbright programme. The meeting included a teleconference with Fulbright programme officials in Washington, DC.

Another area of discussion was disaster preparedness, in light of recent major earthquakes in New Zealand and Japan. Indeed, David Satterwhite, Executive Director of

the Japan-United States Educational Commission was unable to attend the meeting due to the emergency situation in Japan.



Fulbright Executive Directors from around the East Asia and Pacific region meet in Korea

## Alumni Association

**FULBRIGHT  
NEW ZEALAND  
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION**



**TE WHAKAWHITINGA  
AOTEAROA-AMERIKA**

## Alumni Association update

In response to the tragic events and subsequent disruption caused by the Christchurch earthquake the Fulbright New Zealand Association has expressed its concern to Canterbury alumni and has offered to provide whatever support is within its capability. Christchurch alumni can be assured that alumni around New Zealand are behind them as they recover from this event and rebuild their beautiful city.

We are delighted with the success of the homestay programme in February. Alumni were able to provide a total of 43 “bed nights” for US grantees on their arrival in New Zealand. This was a magnificent response from alumni. The feedback from the grantees and hosts has been overwhelmingly positive and has affirmed that this programme can be offered annually.

The Association continues to build partnerships that facilitate meaningful alumni activities. Two ‘Thought Leaders’ dinners are currently being piloted with the Cognition Institute and with generous support from Buddle Findlay New Zealand Lawyers. The process involves alumni engaging with practitioners in meaningful conversations on important topics. A

template for similar alumni-initiated activities will be developed as a guide for encouraging alumni to engage with their communities of interest in meaningful ways.

Following discussions with the Sir Peter Blake Trust the first Association Leadership Week event is planned for Auckland on 4 July.

I am looking forward to visiting the regions and sharing the messages about the future directions of the Association. The clear message is that successful alumni associations are “owned” by the members and are alumni driven.

Thanks again to Association members for your continuing support especially to those who have renewed and extended their memberships. 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

## In Brief



Propolis. Propolis. Who's got the propolis?  
The immune system of the beehive metropolis.

A still from Tom McFadden's  
music video “Hip-Hop-A-Propolis”

## Grantee and Alumni News

Fulbright alumnus **Allan Thomas** (1990 NZ Research Scholar) was posthumously awarded the prestigious KBB Music CANZ (Composers Association of New Zealand) Citation for Services to New Zealand Music in March. Allan, who passed away in September 2010, was responsible for establishing ethnomusicology as a specialist course at Victoria University of Wellington's School of Music, where he taught for three decades. He was a champion of world music, particularly Asian, Pacific Island and New Zealand music. He published several books and CDs about music of various Pacific Islands and completed work on a book about taonga puoro (traditional Māori instruments) with Richard Nunns shortly before he died. Allan's colleagues are preparing for publication a festschrift entitled *World Music is Where We Found It*.

Fulbright alumnus **Glyn Harper** (2010 NZ Senior Scholar) published a new book in April which tells the story of the World War I Gallipoli campaign of 1915 through a collection of letters written by New Zealand soldiers. *Letters from Gallipoli, New Zealand Soldiers Write Home* (Auckland University Press) collects 190 letters, most of them previously unpublished, from more than 600 that Glyn collected from archives, newspapers and family collections. The letters are presented largely unedited, and complemented with a comprehensive introduction, biographical notes on the letter writers, new maps and historic photographs. Glyn is currently writing a book about the World War II Battle of Monte Cassino, which he researched in the US on his Fulbright exchange.

Fulbright alumna **Dame Anne Salmond** (1990 NZ Senior Scholar) was one of eight category winners at the 2011 World Class New Zealand Awards, presented by Kea (the Kiwi Expat Association) and New Zealand Trade and Enterprise in April. Dame Anne was winner of the Science, Technology & Academia category award, in recognition of her career-long work to build bridges of understanding and knowledge between Māori and

Pākehā, academia and the community. A pre-eminent New Zealand scholar, she is currently Distinguished Professor of Māori Studies and Anthropology at the University of Auckland.

2011 Fulbright US Graduate Student **Tom McFadden** won third prize in the 2011 Comvita Science Challenge in April. Tom entered the national student video challenge, the brief for which was to translate scientific publications on the topic of healthy food and natural ingredients into a consumer-friendly message, with a music video entitled “Hip-Hop-A-Propolis”. On the video Tom (a.k.a. “The Rhymeosome”) expounds the virtues of the immune system-boosting “bee glue” substance propolis. Tom's entry can be seen online at <http://vimeo.com/21948571>

Fulbright alumnus **Fred Allendorf** (2000 US Senior Scholar) is one of a number alumni to feature in the upcoming Auckland Writers & Readers Festival in May. A renowned expert on evolution, population genetics and conservation biology, Fred will participate in an international panel discussion called “Saving the World” on 15 May with fellow science/environment writers Paul Gilding from Australia, Naomi Oreskes from the US and Grant Redvers from New Zealand. New Zealand alumni writers involved in the Auckland Writers & Readers Festival include **Tusiata Avia**, **Bill Manhire**, **Cilla McQueen**, **Vincent O'Sullivan**, **Victor Rodger** and composer **John Psathas**. For a full programme of events see the festival's website at [www.writersfestival.co.nz](http://www.writersfestival.co.nz) ►

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:

**Howard Critchfield**, 1950 US Graduate Student  
**Sarah Miskin**, 1994 NZ Journalist Exchange ►

## A remarkable alumni contribution

Fulbright alumna Suzanne Snively stepped down from the Fulbright New Zealand Board in March after a remarkable 15 years service, including seven years as Chairperson. Suzanne reflects on some of the changes she has seen since coming to New Zealand as a US graduate exchange student in 1971.

**What prompted you to stay in New Zealand after your Fulbright exchange?**

New Zealand charmed me and I became a permanent resident. Then, completely out of the blue, my future husband saw me across a crowded nightclub and without even finding out my name, went to work the next day, telling the one American in his office that he had seen the woman he planned to marry. She said without hesitation, "that's Suzanne." He proposed less than six weeks after we met, at a US Marine Ball on Halloween Eve, and so here I am now living happily in the world's cultural capital.

**Your career has been as an economist with numerous government departments, non-profit organisations and private companies including the New Zealand Institute of Economic Research, the Reserve Bank, and more recently PricewaterhouseCoopers. What have been some of the underlying principles of your professional work throughout your career?**

People are the economy – they contribute to its production and they are the beneficiaries of its activities. Populations are endowed with a wide range of talents and those economies that are inclusive and fair are more prosperous than those that are hierarchical and controlled by political elites. For many sectors, though, the analysis of the drivers of prosperity requires the identification and description of features that are otherwise invisible. This is because these are aggregated within economic sectors (for example, arts and film activities are hidden inside entertainment), they are outside the usual measurement systems (such as unpaid work in the home) and/or they are voluntary rather than market-driven (for example, there are nearly 100,000 non-profit organisations in New Zealand creating outcomes which are not fully measured by economic output measures).

**Your term on the Fulbright New Zealand Board was long and full of achievements. What were some of the highlights of your tenure on the Board?**

There were 84 awards administered by Fulbright this year, which is around 50 more than the year I joined the Board. Working with Executive Directors Jenny Gill and

Mele Wendt, the Fulbright staff and fellow Directors. The demonstration of J. William Fulbright's objectives for cultural understanding through educational exchange. Increased diversity of grantees. The deepening of the Fulbright experience through marae visits, Thanksgiving with the US Ambassador, homestays with Fulbright alumni, the presentation of papers, and the involvement of Future Partners in the NZ US Partnership Forum.

**You were a driving force behind the Fulbright-Platinum Triangle Scholarship in Business from its initiation. Why do you think that particular graduate award is so important to New Zealand?**

An underlying premise of New Zealand's government-led economic policy is that the business sector is robust and viable. In reality, businesses here are mainly small scale and earn the majority of their revenue from the small New Zealand population. Less than a third of New Zealand's GDP is earned from exporting, which puts us at the lower end of developed economies, and less than 100 New Zealand companies earn revenues of a size that provide them with the capacity to sustain a place in global markets. If more New Zealand businesses were exporting to a growing international customer base, we could be assured of continued quality education, health and other public services in the future. The Fulbright-Platinum Triangle Scholarship provides US\$100,000 to complete an MBA, an internship at a major US business, and assistance in re-entering business when back home. The awardees are talented individuals who acquire further knowledge to enhance their business leadership expertise. In this way, the Platinum Triangle contributes to building the capability and experience of New Zealand's future business leaders, and through this, our economic prosperity.

**Your contribution to Fulbright New Zealand has been quite extraordinary. How would you encourage other alumni to give back to the Fulbright programme in other, perhaps more modest, ways?**

I am humbled by the remarkable things that all Fulbrighters do – the contribution they make in their areas of interest. Fulbright's effectiveness at penetrating cultures and perpetuating the appreciation of inclusiveness, diversity, mutual understanding, education and knowledge would be greatly enhanced, though, if each of us made a case each year to at least one sponsor, government official or politician about the value of the Fulbright programme, contributed to alumni activities, donated regularly and/or set aside an amount in our wills for Fulbright awards. ➤

## Alumni Voice



Suzanne Snively

*"I am humbled by the remarkable things that all Fulbrighters do – the contribution they make in their areas of interest."*



2011 Fulbright US Senior Scholar Mike Emch meets his alumni homestay host Laurence Zwimpfer during the February orientation programme



Long-serving Fulbright New Zealand Board member Suzanne Snively is farewelled from the Board at its March meeting

## In Pictures

## Awarded

### Fulbright US Graduate Awards

**Laura Bergner** from McLean, Virginia will complete a Master of Science degree, specialising in conservation genetics of reintroduced populations of threatened birds, at the University of Otago.

**Jessica Hinojosa** from Dallas, Texas will complete a Master of Science degree, specialising in paleoclimatological analysis of the Roaring Forties winds, at the University of Otago.

**Kate MacDuffie** from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania will research whether reward enhances the brain's ability to imagine future events, at the University of Auckland.

**Katy Orr** from Reno, Nevada will research the deposition of polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons in Arthur's Pass National Park, at the University of Otago.

**Peri Sasnett** from Reno, Nevada will research the slip rate and rupture history of the Greendale Fault, at the University of Canterbury.

**Wells Weymouth** from Coral Gables, Florida will complete a Postgraduate Certificate in Antarctic Studies, specialising in the impact of melatonin supplements on circadian rhythms of Antarctic workers, at the University of Canterbury.

### Fulbright US Senior Scholar Awards

**Ted Catton** from the University of Montana will research and write a comparative history of national park protection in the US and New Zealand, at the University of Canterbury.

**Susan Faircloth** from Pennsylvania State University will research education conditions and outcomes for Māori children with special needs, at Victoria University of Wellington.

**Jason Paul** from the University of Oklahoma will research how land use change and other landscape characteristics affect optical water quality in New Zealand, at NIWA (the National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research). ➤

## Arrivals and Departures

### Arrivals:

#### Fulbright Specialist Awards

Victoria University of Wellington will host **Dan Robinson** from the University of Texas at Austin, who will lecture and conduct workshops about integrating technology into team-based learning principles. Dan arrives in July.

### Departures:

#### Fulbright-Wallace Arts Trust Award

**Mark Braunias** from Kawhia will complete a three month residency at Headlands Center for the Arts in Sausalito, California. Mark departs in July.

#### Fulbright New Zealand Travel Awards

**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. Janet departs in May. ➤

## Important Dates

### Fulbright New Zealand Outreach Tour 2011

University, polytechnic and wānanga campuses nationwide, May-June

Fulbright New Zealand's educational advising team is visiting campuses nationwide on an Outreach Tour to inform students and academic staff about educational opportunities in the US and the range of prestigious Fulbright exchange awards which can help you get there.

See [www.fulbright.org.nz/events/outreachtour](http://www.fulbright.org.nz/events/outreachtour) for details

#### May

1 International Fulbright Science and Technology Awards applications close

#### June

2 Grantee lecture: Frank Alcock – The Political Challenges of Pricing Carbon

2011 Fulbright US Senior Scholar Frank Alcock explores the political challenges and potential trade-offs governments must consider when attempting to put a price on carbon emissions.

12:00 noon-1:00pm, US Embassy, 29 Fitzherbert Terrace, Thorndon, Wellington. RSVP to [wellington.arc@state.gov](mailto:wellington.arc@state.gov)/(04) 462 6112 by 1 June

29 Fulbright New Zealand Awards Ceremony and Alumni Reception

5:30-7:30pm, Beehive Banquet Hall, Parliament Buildings, Wellington. RSVP to [info@fulbright.org.nz](mailto:info@fulbright.org.nz)/(04) 472 2065 by 22 June

#### July

1 Fulbright New Zealand Senior Scholar Awards applications close

Fulbright Visiting Scholar Awards in New Zealand Studies applications close

Fulbright-Cognition Scholar Award in Education Research 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

#### August

1 Fulbright-Platinum Triangle Scholarship in Business applications close

Fulbright-EQC Graduate Award in Natural Disaster Research applications close

Fulbright-Ministry of Science and Innovation Graduate Awards applications close

Fulbright-Ngā Pae o te Māramatanga Graduate Award applications close

Fulbright New Zealand General Graduate Awards applications close

Fulbright-Wallace Arts Trust Award applications close

Fulbright US Senior Scholar Awards applications close

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

## Taking the heat off the Indians

Carl Sanders-Edwards from Thames received the 2010 Fulbright-Platinum Triangle Scholarship in Entrepreneurship to complete his Master of Business Administration degree at Babson College in Wellesley, Massachusetts. He returned to New Zealand briefly in March to be presented Massey University's Distinguished Young Alumni Award for 2011, in recognition of his leading work in entrepreneurship. Shortly after returning to the US, Carl reported in about his Fulbright exchange to date.

I felt particularly smart. Our class was discussing operations improvements in service industries and the professor had just outlined the pro's and con's of getting customers to do their own work. He'd asked for examples and I had one. "Such as automated check-in when you are flying". "Sorry?" he said. "Automated check-in," I replied. His face winced and he responded "Automated chickens?". The class erupted in laughter.

I'd been undone by my Kiwi accent once again. Professors here can understand Eastern European, Latin and Asian accents without any problem but seem to struggle with mine. Never mind, it makes a great talking point. My Indian friends in the class claim I take the heat off them when it comes to accents, so if I achieve nothing else in the US, I've helped them!

On a more serious note I can't believe that I've almost finished my first year of an MBA at Babson College in Boston on a Fulbright scholarship. The experience has already been hugely valuable from a number of perspectives. Babson and the MBA course have exceeded my expectations, there have been many opportunities and learnings to take forward into the future, my wife and I have enjoyed some great trips and we have even managed to keep getting a taste of New Zealand while over here.

Babson's MBA has just been rated as the number one entrepreneurship programme in the US for the 18th year running. The President of the school claims that while ratings are far from perfect, he senses a trend! There is no doubt that this place lives and breathes entrepreneurship. Yesterday our class was asked who intends to start a business within the next five years and 48 out of 50 hands went up. Being in this environment while I run my own business is a huge advantage. I've already applied things that I've learned from classes, classmates, professors, mentors and visiting speakers. Much of the value comes from the diversity of ideas and backgrounds you are exposed to. There are 150 students in my programme and they represent 41 different countries and 150 different backgrounds. We do a lot of team work which means we have to work and interact together. To say it has been a learning experience would be an understatement.

In addition to the academic side the extracurricular activities are setting me up well for my return to New Zealand. I'm very involved with the school's incubator, the Babson Venture Accelerator, and a couple of large local angel investing groups. Through these I'm learning all sorts of new tricks and contacts to support business growth in New Zealand. I recently spoke at an evening event to the Babson Trustees and was sharing stories of being in business with one of the Trustees when he quietly dropped that his business had been a multi billion dollar Telco in Europe. Gulp! Another highlight was the Rocket Pitch competition. You get three

minutes and three slides to pitch your business idea to a room full of interested parties. I pitched three ideas and afterwards was surrounded by VCs and potential collaborators – now that was cool! Interestingly these opportunities have all been 'lubricated' by me being from New Zealand. Despite my accent (or because of it?), being a Kiwi seems to help open doors. Everyone seems to either know someone that has been to New Zealand and raves about the place (and people), or connect by being fans of sailing, Lord of the Rings, rugby and/or The Flight of the Conchords.

Boston is a great city but my wife, Emma, and I are keen travellers so have managed to get out and see some sites. Fishing in the Florida Keys was my highlight while walking up Miami beach in flash sunglasses was Emma's. It's also hard to ignore trips to New York, Rhode Island, Maine and Vermont. We even managed a classic all-American Thanksgiving meal with a local family in Vermont. It was a great experience even if the potatoes were mashed, not roasted (what are they thinking?). There was also Fluff, yes Fluff, on top of sweet potatoes. For those of you that don't know, Fluff is a very sweet marshmallow spread that is popular in these parts. I guess it is about as appealing to the uninitiated as Marmite is to those visiting New Zealand, again highlighting what a great cultural experience this is.

It hasn't all been America; we have also had our share of Kiwi experiences. Josh, a Fulbrighter from a few years back, is living in Boston and has been a fine host. We have had some great catch-ups and made some lasting friendships with other Kiwis in the Boston area. We even ended up at a famous hangi in New Hampshire, with 300 Kiwis and guests enjoying the best of New Zealand culture on the other side of the world. It was awesome! The cricket world cup provided another nice link to home and plenty to talk about with my Indian and Pakistani friends. I've been doing my best representing our country in some very seriously contested games of indoor cricket.

So what next? We plan to stay the summer in Boston and work on our business in the school's Summer Venture Programme. After that I have another eight months to finish the MBA before coming home and putting it all to work. Of course we also plan to do more travelling around and checking out this big country. When we do I'll be sure keep a look out for those 'automated chickens' in the airports! ➤



Carl Sanders-Edwards leads a business meeting (photo: Massey News)

### Grantee Voice



Carl Sanders-Edwards

*"Being a Kiwi seems to help open doors. Everyone seems to either know someone that has been to New Zealand and raves about the place (and people), or connect by being fans of sailing, Lord of the Rings, rugby and/or The Flight of the Conchords."*

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

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## 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:

#### 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 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 July and 1 November 2011, 1 April 2012**

#### 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 July and 1 November 2011, 1 April 2012**

#### 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 July and 1 November 2011, 1 April 2012**

#### Fulbright-Platinum Triangle Scholarship in Business

For a promising New Zealand graduate student in a knowledge economy-related field to complete a Masters degree at a US university and gain professional work experience in the US and New Zealand. Valued at US\$100,000 plus travel and paid internship. **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-Ministry of Science and Innovation 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-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**

#### 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 2012**

#### 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 2012**

#### 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 2012**

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.