

Scholar Exchanges

Administered by the Institute's Council for International Exchange of Scholars since its inception 57 years ago, the Fulbright Senior Scholars Program now assists some 800 U.S. faculty and professionals travel to 140 countries to lecture and conduct research. An equal number of overseas academics and professionals visit the United States under the program to do the same.

In addition to the traditional scholar exchange program, other innovative programs are meeting the needs of current times. Among these are cutting-edge research conducted by New Century Scholars, two new Visiting Specialist programs designed to impart better understanding of the Muslim world, and unique trans-national collaborations established by an increasing number of Fulbright Senior Specialists.

The U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs supports each component of the Fulbright Senior Scholar Program.

The second year of the **New Century Scholars Program** brought together research scholars and professionals from around the world to explore another issue of global significance — peace.

The scholars sought to better understand how and why conflicts occur within and between nations, from riots to civil wars and secessionist movements, and how such conflicts may be prevented. The second class of New Century Scholars from the U.S. and 20 other regions, many characterized by prolonged ethnic and sectarian conflict — Northern Ireland, Macedonia, Sri Lanka, Africa, and Pakistan — collaboratively examined causes and proposed remedies for conflicts during the year.

In November, the United States Institute of Peace in Washington, D.C. hosted the 2002-2003 NCS Final

Plenary Seminar entitled "Fanning the Flames, Putting out the Fire: Ethnic Conflicts and the Peace Process." The plenary was attended by the diplomatic community, policy makers, social scientists and representatives from international organizations. It highlighted the individual and collaborative work of the scholars on topics such as peace-making and reconstruction, ethno-religious conflicts, cross-border ethnic identity and diasporas, the clash of tradition and modernity, emigration and immigration as factors in multiculturalism, effects of refugee resettlement on the creation of new civil societies, and stateless nations.

Dr. Barbara Oomen, assistant professor, Van Vollenhoven Institute for Law, Governance and Development, Leiden University, Leiden, The Netherlands, observed:

"The sad fact that this year's research took place against the backdrop of increased sectarian, ethnic and cultural conflict all over the world, spilling over national borders and subject to global concern, did not only give the theme an extra salience but also made working on it within a truly international team of dedicated researchers a gratifying intellectual and personal experience."

The first class of New Century Scholars continues to spawn unique collaborations designed to abate global health challenges, the topic explored for a single year by the first cohort of 30 NCS international scholars in 2001-2002. A Global Health Summer Course: "Globalization and Public Health in Latin America" was held in Cuernavaca, Mexico featuring 17 health specialists from 17 Latin American countries, Cuba and the United States. The course was part of the Mexican National Institute of Public Health's annual international Summer Program on Actualization in Public Health and Epidemiology.

Facing page: Top: Dr. Kwanchewan Buadaeng, left, with Karen people in a village in the west of Thailand. Dr. Buadaeng was one of thirty scholars to participate in the second year of the New Century Scholars Program, focusing on the topic "Addressing Sectarian, Ethnic and Cultural Conflict Within and Across National Borders." A researcher at the Social Research Institute of Chiang Mai University in Chiang Mai, Thailand, Dr. Buadaeng, left, studied the differing ethnic and religious relations among the Karen people along the Thailand-Burma border. Left: Dr. Gerald Hammond spent two semesters at the National Autonomous University of Mexico in Mexico City lecturing and conducting research on different areas of organic chemistry. Hammond, a professor in the Department of Chemistry at the University of Massachusetts-Dartmouth, is pictured here working with graduate students in Mexico. Photo: Richard Lord, 2003 Right: Dr. Kodjopa Attoh, right, discusses African geology with his colleagues at the University of Ghana, Legon. A visiting scientist in the Department of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences at Cornell University, Attoh lectured and conducted research while abroad.



impact

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The course was team taught by eight NCS Scholars from South and North America, Africa and Australia, along with representatives from the Pan American Health Organization. Participants explored current issues in global health studies — to include trade, public health policies, global governance, the global economy, technology, environmental change, social disruption — and how each of these affects global health. By addressing public health through an interdisciplinary approach and in the context of globalization, participants had the opportunity to initiate new “global health” networks throughout the region.

The **Fulbright Senior Specialists Program** is designed to provide intensive, short-term academic opportunities to U.S. faculty and professionals. The program is popular for those who wish to collaborate with colleagues abroad amid worldwide, political, social and economic change. The program’s application, peer review and appointment process is unique in that it is offered solely on-line. This allows Senior Specialists from the program’s roster to be quickly matched with grant opportunities.

Among the 230 U.S. academics and professionals who went abroad under the Fulbright Senior Specialists Program in 2003 was Baruch Givoni, professor emeritus, University of California-Los Angeles. An urban planning specialist, Givoni taught Chilean architects, builders and engineers how to improve the quality of housing for people with very low incomes. His work focused on improving the homes’ design and the use of materials and solar power. He also taught in the Architecture Faculty of Universidad De Chile and in Fundacion, Chile.

Today, more than 1,500 academics and professionals have been selected to be on the Senior Specialists roster, available to be matched with requests from overseas host institutions in over 100 countries.

Cross-cultural knowledge is a fundamental necessity for an average citizen today. Two **Fulbright Visiting Specialist Programs** have been designed to expand knowledge about the Islamic world and diffuse existing misperceptions.

Facing page: Nelly Selgado de Snyder was one of the first New Century Scholars and is currently serving as the director of community health and social welfare of the Center for Health Systems Research of the Mexican National Institute of Public Health. She also coordinated the first NCS global health summer course entitled Globalization and Public Health in Latin America, held in August 2003 in Cuernavaca, Mexico.

At right: from left: Patti McGill Peterson, executive director, CIES; Abdul Hamid Hallab, director, Understanding Contemporary Islam, American University of Beirut and William Hoffman, American University of Beirut, gather to discuss the partnership between the American University of Beirut and CIES. Entitled Understanding Contemporary Islam, the program strives to expand the dialogue between East and West by sending scholars from the Islamic world to universities and colleges in the United States. These visiting fellows will serve as resources on Islam and life in contemporary Muslim societies to academic communities that lack extensive academic programs in these areas.

PARIS — American cheese? To the French, that's an oxymoron. But a Benedictine nun from Connecticut has proven otherwise.

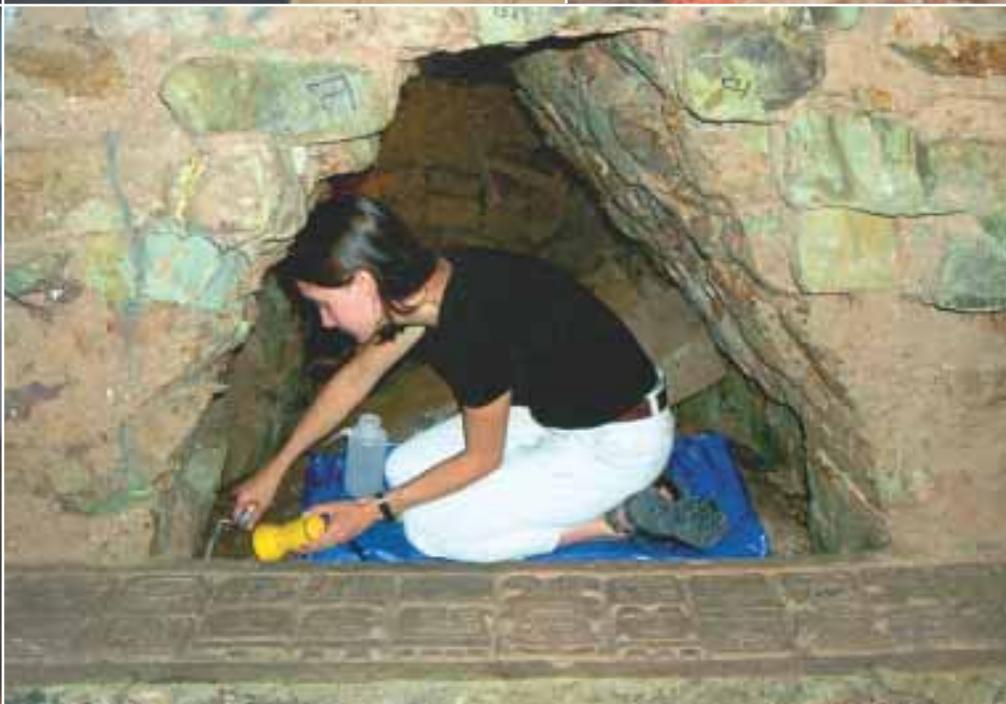
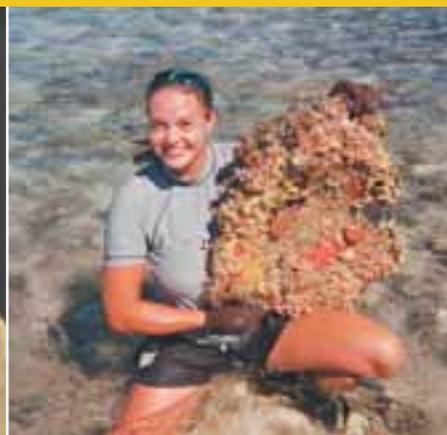
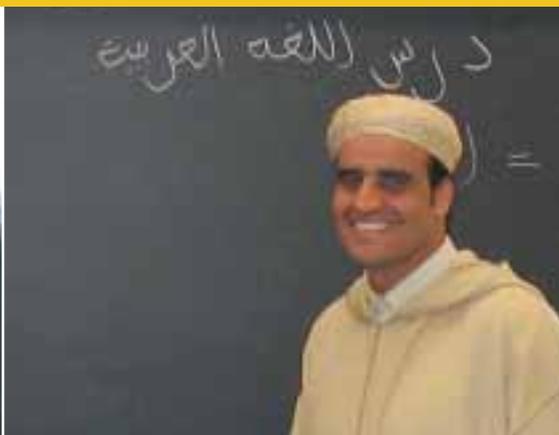
Mother Noella Marcellino is teaching the French about their ancient art: She earned a doctorate in microbiology, studying cheeses made from unpasteurized milk....In the 1990s, Marcellino won a Fulbright scholarship to study in France. She studied cheese fungus, going from farm to farm collecting samples. She was profiled in a documentary that coined her nickname: “The Cheese Nun.”

— From Angela Doland, Associated Press, December 20, 2003

Supported by the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs of the U.S. Department of State, the newest Islamic initiative, *Fulbright Visiting Specialists: Direct Access to the Muslim World*, will support 25 grants for two-to-six week visits by scholars and professionals from the Middle East and other Muslim countries. All are former Fulbrighters. They will visit American institutions to improve understanding and knowledge of Islamic, Middle East, North African and South Asian societies and cultures. The first scholars arrive in February 2004.

Understanding Contemporary Islam is a program of the American University of Beirut, created in partnership with CIES. It will send scholars from the Muslim world to U.S. universities and colleges that lack extensive academic programs on Islam and Muslim society. Prominent scholars from a variety of fields in the humanities and social sciences will teach, interact with the wider community and serve as resources on Islam. This program is sponsored by The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, the Carnegie Corporation of New York and the Rockefeller Brothers Fund.





Top left: Gilman Scholar Mark Morris from Utah State University studied in Ljubljana, Slovenia. Center: Rachid Oumarabi, a Fulbright Foreign Language Teaching Assistant (FLTA) from Morocco, is teaching Arabic language and Moroccan culture at Governors State University in Illinois. Right: Lisa M. Bebell from Colorado had a Fulbright grant to study biology in Australia. Bottom left: Fulbrighters Cyprian Adupa from Uganda and Magdalena Florek from Poland talking at the Fulbright Enrichment Seminar in Washington, DC. Photo: Scott Suchman. Right: Fulbrighter Cameron McNeil collected archaeological pollen residues from temple and palace floors to conduct dissertation research in Honduras on the ritual use of plants by the Maya.

impact

“ Fulbright Fellowships were a direct outgrowth of the role this country inherited some 50 years ago. A world wasted by war looked to the United States for leadership and we responded with creativity, with know-how, and with renewed resolve to promote lasting peace among citizens of every creed, every country and of every continent....” — The Honorable Colin L. Powell, Secretary of State, July 29, 2003