

57 NOBEL LAUREATES AND COUNTING

In 2006, IIE was proud to add two more names to its list of Nobel Laureates: Dr. Mohammed Yunus, who came to the U.S. on a Fulbright Fellowship in 1965 to get his PhD in Economics, won the Nobel Peace Prize for his work with the Grameen Bank. Dr. Yunus, a Bangladeshi banker and economist known as the founder of the concept of microcredit, has made huge contributions to the economic and social development in poor communities around the globe and inspired many similar efforts. International Visitor Leadership Program alumnus Orhan Pamuk, who came to the U.S. from Turkey in 1985 to take part in a U.S. Department of State "Iowa Writers Workshop" project, was awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature.

This now brings to 34 the number of Nobel Prize winning alumni of the Fulbright Program (which the Institute has been privileged to administer for the U.S. Department of State since the program's inception in 1946), along with 16 other IIE-administered grantees and 7 of the Institute's Trustees or advisors. In total, 30 have won in the sciences, 15 in economics, 3 in literature and 9 for peace – a glowing achievement in which we take exceptional pride.

There can be no more powerful testimony to the unique value of international education and exchange programs than the accomplishments of these Nobel Laureates, hailing from so many different nations, whose early promise was recognized, and supported, by the Fulbright Program and IIE. These greatly gifted men and women – and the next generation of international exchange students the Institute is currently identifying – are truly the hope of the world, working to serve humankind by conquering disease, advancing world peace, reducing global poverty, preserving the environment and creating a more just and prosperous global society.