

March/April 2018



# BRIGHT SPARKS

**Inside: Fulbright New Zealand welcomes MFAT funding increase**

**Cover: US Scholar inspires next generation of STEM in NZ**



*Also In This Issue* | Alumni Making Headlines in the 2018 New Zealand Festival | Connecting with our 2018 Cohort | Alumni Spotlight: Cathryn Shine | Guest Article from The University of Auckland on Global Scholar Alan Daly | Perspective-Shifts in Silicon Valley and The Deep South from Alumna Ruth Empson | Alumni Spotlight: A Surreal Week in Davos with Dr. Frances Hughes | News from the Wellington Office | Fulbright in East-Asia Pacific: Fulbright Regional Conference in Jakarta



**PENELOPE  
BORLAND**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

## FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

This is a golden time for Fulbright New Zealand as we are now in a position to offer New Zealand Graduate Awards that not only open up myriad opportunities but also provide significantly increased financial support – up to US\$40,000 for a first year of study and the opportunity for second year funding for multi-year programmes of up to US\$30,000. See page 11 for more details.

We are tremendously grateful to the New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade for their support in doubling our treaty funding base to enable this and in particular to our board member Richard Kay, Acting Divisional Manager, Americas Division. This could not be more welcome news in our 70th anniversary year and we look forward to celebrating this milestone with many of you.

Please get in touch with us [alumni@fulbright.org.nz](mailto:alumni@fulbright.org.nz) for more information.

I encourage you to enjoy the diversity of art and science stories and alumni profiles in this issue and, as ever, find inspiration in being open to new ideas and possibilities, which for me is enhanced by embracing the concept of vulnerability, as discussed by Global Scholar Alan Daly (see story on page 24).

“There’s growing recognition that high level trusting and caring relationships support the type of collaboration that is necessary to solve complex problems.” A perfect insight into why the deep people to people relationships fostered by the Fulbright programme are more relevant than ever in our world.

## HAVE NEWS TO SHARE?

[EMAIL.ALMUMNI@FULBRIGHT.ORG.NZ](mailto:EMAIL.ALMUMNI@FULBRIGHT.ORG.NZ)

We would love to hear what you’ve been up to! We welcome your letters, articles, notices and story ideas. Please note, any material submitted may be edited for publication.

## EDITOR’S NOTE

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.  
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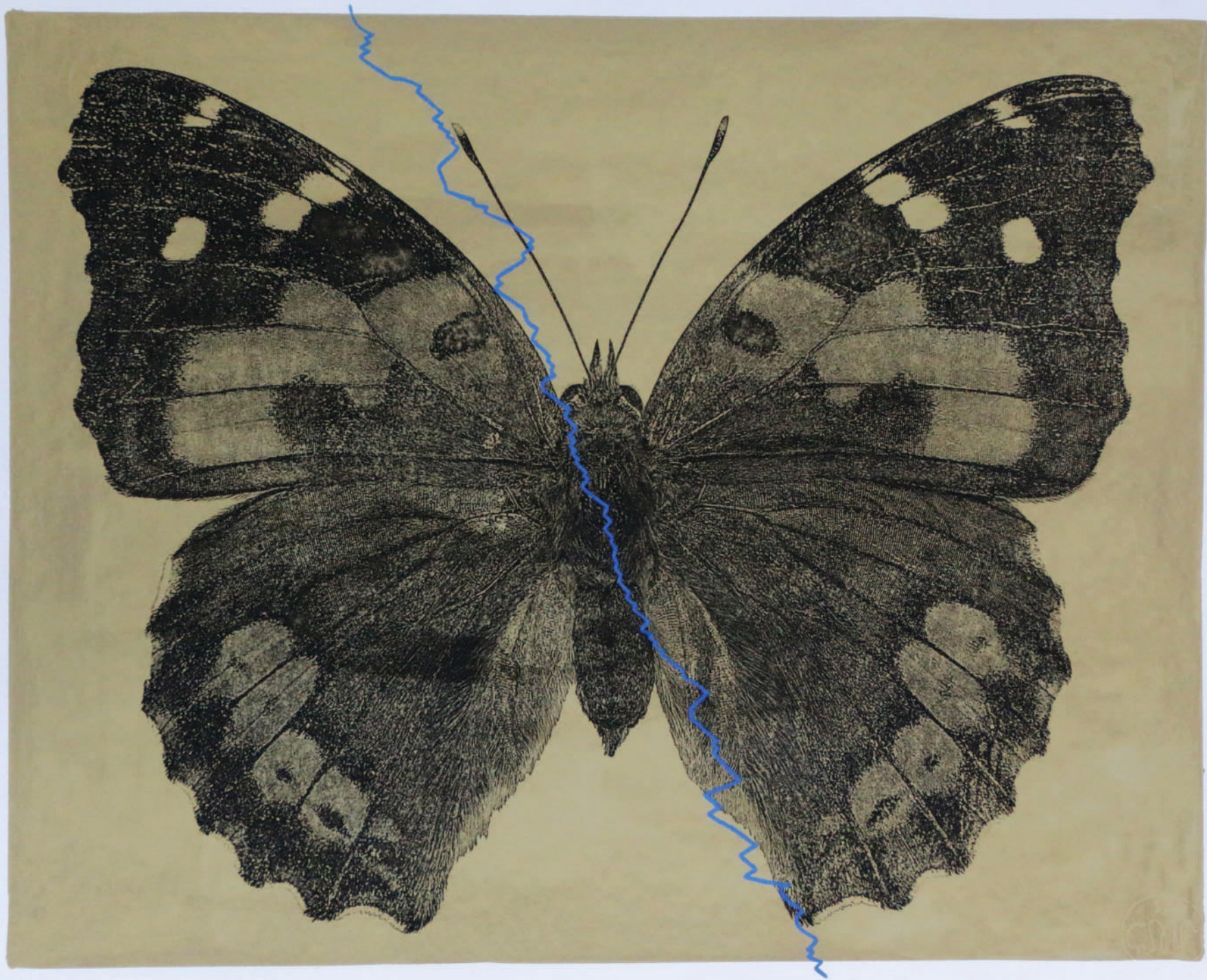
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ARTWORK "KAMEHAMEHA  
BUTTERFLY" CONTRIBUTED  
BY CATHRYN SHINE.  
STORY ON PAGE 10.



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# IN THE NEWS

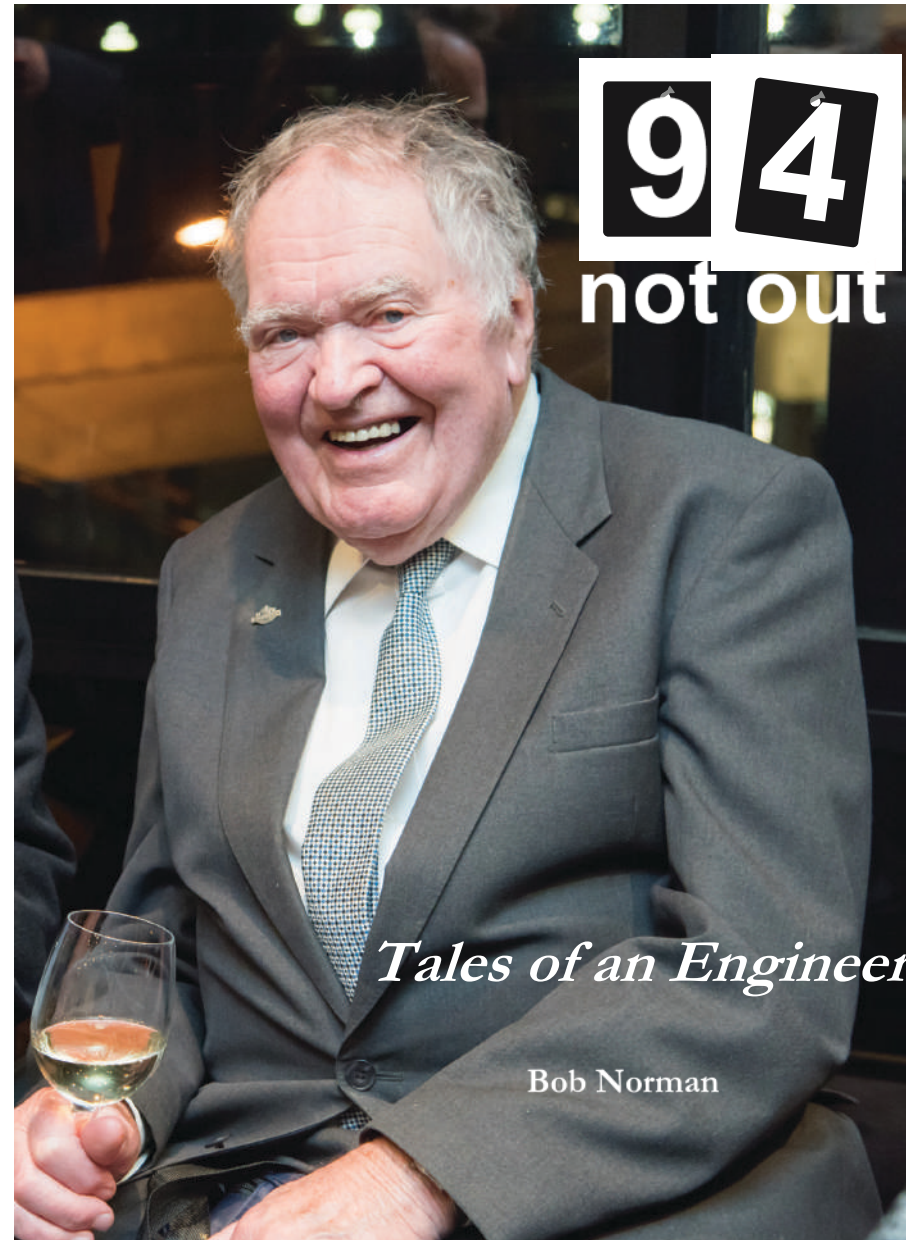


## DR. SIMON BENNETT

2014 FULBRIGHT NEW ZEALAND SCHOLAR

Simon Bennett of Ngati Whakaue, Patu Harakeke, and Kati Waewae, is the first Maori to hold the position of Director of Clinical Psychology Training at Massey University. In this role he is challenging what he calls excessive emphasis on deficit models of mental wellbeing that have been disadvantageous for Maori. Dr Bennett's PhD research was completed in 2011, and looked at how Maori values, customs and indigenous perspectives could be used in mainstream psychological intervention.

He was a Fulbright Scholar in 2014 at the Centers for American Indian and Alaska Native Health in Denver, Colorado.



ABOVE: '94 NOT OUT: *Tales of an Engineer* book cover.

## IN PUBLICATION

BOB NORMAN - HARKNESS FELLOW, 1956

Bob is a past President and Distinguished Fellow of Engineering New Zealand. He has recently published his fifth book '94 NOT OUT : Tales of an Engineer', a collection of anecdotes and poetry, portraying a lifetime of engineering, public service and village life. Bob was a Harkness Fellow in 1956 – one of our very first fellows! He undertook his fellowship at the University of Illinois and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and also visited engineering organisations in 42 states focusing on civil engineering, with an emphasis on road and bridge construction.

To find out more about Bob's book or to order a copy you can email him at bob.norman314@gmail.com.

CATHERINE KLEIER - 2013 FULBRIGHT  
US SENIOR SCHOLAR

Catherine is a Professor in the Department of Biology at Regis University in Denver, Colorado.

"I adored my time in the Department of Botany at the University of Otago, where I worked with Dr. Kath Dickinson, Sir Alan Mark, and Dr. Janice Lord. I was also privileged enough to spend an evening with Mr. and Mrs. Phil Barry at their house in Upper Hutt as part of my orientation, which I greatly enjoyed."

Catherine recorded lectures for a course called "Plant Sciences: An Introduction to Botany for the Great Courses," that may be of interest to some in New Zealand: <https://www.thegreatcourses.com/courses/plant-science-an-introduction-to-botany.html>

She has also published the following:

Kleier, C., and T. Trenary. 2017. An exploratory study of facilitation in three species of *Raoulia*. *New Zealand Journal of Botany* 55(2): 215-224.

Buxton, M, C. Kleier, and J. Lord. 2016. Variation in reproductive investment and floret gender ratios in two gynodioecious mat daisies (*Raoulia*, Asteraceae). *New Zealand Journal of Botany* 54(1): 74-86.

## EVENTS

APRIL

### Fulbright New Zealand 70th Anniversary Dunedin Alumni Reception

Date: Monday 16 April 2018

Time: 5:30pm – 7:00pm

Location: Main Common Room (MCR) in the Union Building, University of Otago, 362 Leith St Dunedin

Occasion: A chance to connect with fellow alumni and to celebrate Fulbright's 70th Anniversary.

Ruth Empson (page 26) will be speaking about her research

MAY

### Fulbright New Zealand 70th Anniversary Canterbury Alumni Reception

Date: Tuesday 1 May 2018

Time: 5:30pm – 7:00pm

Location: John Britten Foyer, The University of Canterbury

Occasion: A chance to connect with fellow alumni and to celebrate Fulbright's 70th Anniversary.

2016 Fulbright New Zealand Scholar Matthew Stott will present his research on the similarities of microorganisms that populate geothermal ecosystems in New Zealand and Yellowstone National Park, Montana.

### Fulbright New Zealand 70th Anniversary Auckland Alumni Reception

Date: Late May \* Watch this space

Location: Auckland

Occasion: A chance to connect with fellow alumni and to celebrate Fulbright's 70th Anniversary. Details for this event will be released shortly. For more information, please email [alumni@fulbright.org.nz](mailto:alumni@fulbright.org.nz).





## FLASHBACK: MT. RUAPEHU 1995

*LEFT: CRATER LAKE REGION DURING  
ERUPTION, MT. RUAPEHU, OCTOBER 1995*

Allan Macintyre was a 1994 Fulbright US Graduate. He was hosted at the Elam School of Fine Arts at the University of Auckland in 1995 to photograph the volcanic and geothermal region of the North Island. During his time in New Zealand, Mt. Ruapehu erupted, and he was able to photograph the event. Allan's photographs were sent by former Fulbright Executive Director Jenny Gill to current Executive Director Penelope Borland, and we are delighted to share a bit of history with you, twenty-three years later.

*For more of his work visit:*  
<http://www.allanmacintyre.com/>

## EVENTS CONTINUED

### JUNE

**Fulbright New Zealand Annual Awards Ceremony**  
Date: Monday 18 June 018  
Location: Parliament House, Wellington New Zealand  
Occasion: This event celebrates our 2018 grantees and brings together our US and NZ graduates in Wellington for the annual three day Mid Year Programme.

### SEPTEMBER

**70th Anniversary Celebration**  
Date: Friday 14 September 2018  
Location: Wellington, New Zealand  
We are finalising details for our birthday party! If you would like more information, please email [alumni@fulbright.org.nz](mailto:alumni@fulbright.org.nz).



## IN MEMORIAM

We were saddened to hear of the recent passing of Fulbright alumnus **Michael Nelson**.

Mike was a New Zealand Graduate grantee who went to Oregon State College to study agricultural economics in 1954. His granddaughter, Sarah Nelson, received a Fulbright Science and Innovation Graduate Award in 2017. He is pictured above with Sarah.





**SCOTT LOCKWOOD**

2017 FULBRIGHT US  
GRADUATE GRANTEE

Congratulations to Scott Lockwood on his acceptance into the University of Otago's PhD programme on scholarship. Scott has received the University of Otago Doctoral Scholarship towards his Doctor of Philosophy in Microbiology.

Scott from Zionsville, Indiana researched marine microbial production of methane in response to phytoplankton blooms with the Marine Science and Microbiology Department at the University of Otago as part of his Fulbright award last year. Scott graduated with a BA in Mathematics and Biology from DePauw University in 2016.



TOP: 2018 US GRANTEE COHORT IN FRONT OF THE WAIWHETU MARAE AT ORIENTATION. BELOW: KONGA TAKES THE COHORT THROUGH WAKA DRILLS.

# CONNECTING WITH OUR 2018 COHORT

*Fulbright New Zealand's annual February Orientation programme took place in Wellington as we welcomed the 2018 cohort of grantees from the US.*

In February, we welcomed our 2018 US grantees at Orientation, which included a full programme of activities taking place over two days to introduce our grantees to New Zealand and the Fulbright programme.

Orientation is an important part of our grantees' scholarship experience, as it is a chance to meet fellow awardees and give a snapshot of New Zealand culture and history.

Upon greeting the 2018 cohort, Executive Director Penelope Borland explained, "Your award in New Zealand is a time for you to learn about yourself, learn about new cultures, and be open to the many new opportunities that will present themselves. We are always amazed and proud at how successful our grantee experiences are and how much they put into making it a great experience for themselves."

As part of Orientation, grantees took part in an overnight stay at Waiwhetu Marae, something they found particularly special.

Oscar Yip (2018 Fulbright US Graduate), described this as "one of the key events that made orientation such a meaningful experience! It provided us with an opportunity to learn a little about Maori culture and traditions in an immersive style, which I really appreciated. A couple of things that really resonated with me was the tour of the Marae where we were told how each of the different structures of the building meant something special (such as the guests being the beating heart of the Marae), and when we had the activity centered around the Treaty of Waitangi from the Maori perspective."

To conclude Orientation, Fulbright hosted a reception at Chapman Tripp in Wellington. The 21 grantees were encouraged to use the time to connect with local Fulbright alumni, who shared experiences and advice over drinks and nibbles.

We look forward to supporting and sharing our 2018 Fulbrighters journeys with you.



“WE ARE GRATEFUL  
for the announced increase in  
funding and our longstanding  
partnership with the Government  
of New Zealand on the Fulbright  
Program. Our cooperation  
in providing opportunities for  
American and New Zealand  
students and scholars to study,  
research, and teach in one  
another’s country through  
Fulbright reflects our shared  
commitment to a strong bilateral  
relationship and growing people-  
to-people ties.”

**-Marianne Craven**

*Managing Director for Academic Programs  
in the U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of  
Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA).*

“Fulbright New Zealand  
award recipients are  
among the best and  
brightest scholars New  
Zealand has to offer  
and contribute hugely  
to the intellectual,  
political, social and  
cultural fabric of New  
Zealand.”

**-RT Hon Winston Peters**

*Honorary Chair,  
Fulbright New Zealand*

# A BRIGHT FUTURE FOR FULBRIGHT NEW ZEALAND

*On 1 March, Fulbright New Zealand welcomed an announcement from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, doubling its core funding to NZ\$1.35 million per annum.*

On the afternoon of Thursday, 1 March, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade announced an increase in their financial contribution to the Fulbright New Zealand programme via press release from RT Hon Winston Peters.

“The increased funding from 1 July 2018 reflects the high value New Zealand places on educational and cultural exchanges between New Zealand and the United States, and the promotion of ideas and understanding that come from it,” Mr Peters says.

Mr Peters is an Honorary Chair of the Fulbright New Zealand board.

Fulbright New Zealand followed with a supplementary release, welcoming the news.

This funding provides for a permanent increase in the number of grants Fulbright New Zealand is able to offer to New Zealand Graduates and Scholars seeking research and study opportunities in the United States. It will also increase the financial value of the New Zealand Graduate awards, up to US\$40,000 (Approx. NZ\$55,000) for the first year of study or research.

With the new funding, Fulbright New Zealand will also be able to offer second year funding to some graduates undertaking multi-year degree programmes.

This announcement comes just as Fulbright New Zealand is celebrating its 70th

anniversary year.

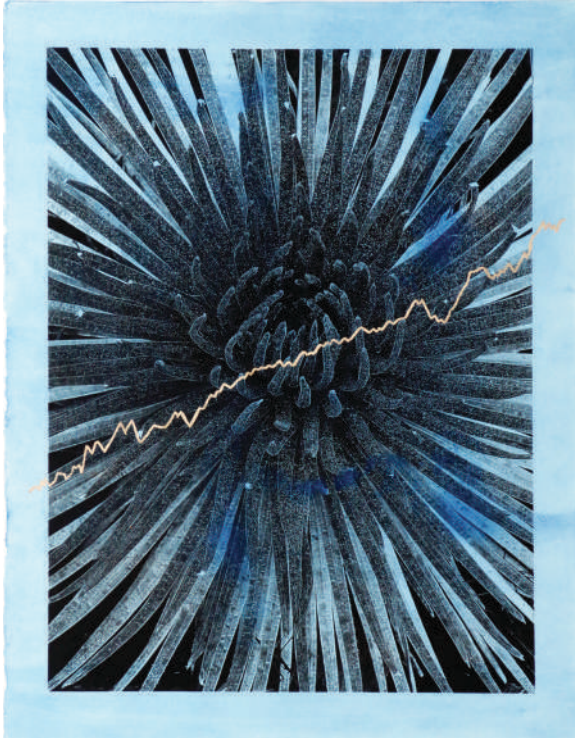
“We are thrilled with this news, which will put Fulbright New Zealand on a sustainable and substantially enhanced funding base,” said Executive Director Penelope Borland. “With this new level of funding from MFAT, we will be able to open doors for more incredibly talented New Zealanders to benefit from educational and cultural exchange with the US, while also enhancing their overall Fulbright experience.”

This will come into effect for this year’s applicants, applying in 2018 for travel to the United States in 2019. Applicants for the New Zealand Graduate Awards are encouraged to apply by 1 August, and New Zealand Scholars should apply by 1 October.

“We are extremely grateful to MFAT for this funding increase and look forward to the life changing opportunities it will bring to our grantees, and the benefit they bring back to Aotearoa New Zealand,” said Borland.

Fulbright New Zealand is also pleased that our partners for the New Zealand Graduate Awards have been incredibly generous in matching the new award levels. The full impact of this increase on Fulbright New Zealand award levels were made public on its website at the end of March 2018. Please visit [www.fulbright.org.nz](http://www.fulbright.org.nz) for specific award details.





## ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT:

# CATHRYN SHINE

SUMMARY CONTRIBUTED BY CATHRYN SHINE.

**Cathryn Shine** is researching Hawaiian Endangered Species and the union between Art, Science, Culture and Identity. Hawaiian endangered species and the rising sea levels with increased salinization are the conceptual bases for this series. Her artworks were recently selected for the international exhibition, 'Beauty of Mokuhanga : Discipline and Sensibility', generated out of Japan and toured to Hawai'i, USA, <http://mokuhanga.jp/2017/submission/print-exhibition> and 'Southern Hemisphere International Printmaking Exhibition 2017' at Gallery Wul, Goyang Cultural Foundation, South Korea, in association with the Korean National University of Art, Seoul, South Korea.

This long-term project begun at the University of Hawai'i at Hilo, 2015/16 and engages artists, scientists and Hawaiian community in collaborative research. Exploring the middle ground between art and science is extremely important to bring public attention to the health of the planet, and the necessity for biodiversity. While science seeks to decipher the natural world, often the information obtained is inaccessible or written in specialized language. Art on the other hand is available to a wider public and takes many forms such as photographs, prints and drawings. The art and science union can depict aspects of the natural world not normally seen or analysed. The appeal of art can bring attention to the beauty and wonder of science in a more tangible realm, and invite the audience to engage with a different way of experiencing the world.

ARTWORK CONTINUED ON PAGE 14.

OPPOSITE PAGE TOP LEFT: "AHINAHINA 2017"  
OPPOSITE PAGE BOTTOM LEFT: "NENE"  
CENTRE PHOTO: "KOKIO KEOKEO."  
ABOVE: "KOA 2" AND "KOA 1."  
ALL ARTWORK CONTRIBUTED BY CATHRYN SHINE.





**CATHRYN SHINE**

2015 FULBRIGHT NEW  
ZEALAND SCHOLAR AWARD

Cathryn Shine from Christchurch researched a collaborative art and science project called the "Hawaiian Endangered Species Print Project" at the University of Hawai'i at Hilo. Cathryn is an Associate Professor Adjunct at the University of Canterbury.





**BEYOND THE AWARD:**

# INSPIRING THE NEXT GENERATION OF STEM STUDENTS

*2018 Fulbright US Scholar Smitesh Bakrania and his wife Lopa have organized a number of science and engineering sessions to inspire their daughter Keya's class towards STEM fields.*

Smitesh Bakrania is an Associate Professor at Rowan University's College of Engineering in New Jersey. His research focuses on the design and impact of mobile technologies to engage students in engineering. He is working with the faculty at Auckland University of Technology (AUT) for his Fulbright programme. Smitesh and his wife have two children, Keya, age 7, and Reeve, age 4.

Keya is enrolled in Year 2-3 at Newton Central School in Grey Lynn, Auckland, where Smitesh and Lopa are hosting these workshops. "While this was not part of our award objective, I thought this is likely what Fulbright means by cultural exchange," said Smitesh. We caught up with both of them to ask a few questions about this extra endeavour and their Fulbright experience so far.

*Q: What gave you and your wife the idea to organise this?*

S: My wife and I are passionate about science and engineering. She works for a large pharmaceutical company as an organic chemist developing cancer drugs and I am a mechanical engineering professor working

with nanotechnology and combustion research. We wanted to share our excitement and the sense of curiosity with our kids, who are 7 and 4 years old. My wife thought it would be great to involve my daughter's class as well to benefit everyone and hopefully get the whole group of first and second graders excited. She began these series of activities when our daughter was in first grade and continued to be involved in second grade. While on our Fulbright Scholar visit to New Zealand, we were fortunate to have our daughter involved in a very inclusive bilingual school in Auckland, Newton Central School. During the orientation and Powhiri, we were introduced to the teachers who really emphasized the role of parents in the education of our children. So we thought why not embrace this new experience and share our passion with our new community.

*Q: The first workshop is on density and floatation – can you explain a little more about what you and your wife did to show this?*

S: Kids learn best by doing (or playing!). However, science and engineering activities can take time and effort to plan. Teachers can often find organizing such hands-on

*CONTINUED ON PAGE 18.*

*Note: Parental consent for the use of these photos of students was facilitated by the class teacher.*





activities challenging. So my wife and I decided to develop activities that require readily available supplies (items that can be purchased at Countdown!) and have parents conduct them.

We have about 5 activities planned for the Year 2-3 at Newton Central School focussing on the concepts of density and flotation, dissolution, separation, reactions, etc. These are simple demonstrations and activities for the kids to begin thinking about properties of matter and their behavior. For instance, for the first activity we asked the kids to hypothesize if a list of objects would sink or float in water.

Most objects and their outcomes are obvious, like a penny will sink. But why does a penny not sink if it is sitting inside a plastic tub that is floating? Or does it matter if an orange is peeled or unpeeled before you place it on water? These predictions and the subsequent observations create learning opportunities for the kids, at the same time training them on the scientific method. Also, let us not forget the kids love playing with water, so they are learning while they are having a splashing time! Once the kids recognized the amount of air in the object is a big factor in its ability to float, my wife jolted their understanding by causing a sunk egg to float in water by adding salt to the water.

The kids were surprised but you can tell they were throwing out all kinds of ideas as to why it was happening. By their engagement, you can tell their curiosity was peaked. This was indeed the goal of such activities, to question what they see and test their ideas.

These are the basic science and engineering skills. The next activity is going to be on how some things mix and some things don't, let's hope they bring the same enthusiasm back.

*It's great that you work in a STEM field, and you're inspiring the next generation - How did your career develop? Were you always interested in STEM as a child? When did you find your passion for it?*

Smitesh: My father never went to college. Yet he was a self-taught engineer. His ability to learn independently from books and his knack for solving electrical and mechanical problems at his carpentry workshop was the most impressive. While I naturally gravitated towards the science fields, my father's skills had a huge impact on me to pursue engineering.

Lopa: I loved school and was fortunate to have some great teachers and mentors who inspired me to pursue the science field. I especially got passionate about chemistry in high school. I had a really great chemistry teacher, who focused on teaching through hands-on activities and research projects.

In college I had an amazing advisor, Marc Zimmer, who I started doing research with. Marc took us to conferences every year to present our research. This was a rare opportunity for undergraduates. During these conferences I got exposed to the vast amount of research that went on all around the US. I especially got really excited about organic chemistry and went to graduate

CONTINUED ON PAGE 20.







school to pursue a PhD in it. Again, I worked with an extremely passionate, energetic and inspiring professor and mentor, Melanie Sanford. During my graduate studies I got several industrial awards from Bristol-Myers Squibb (BMS) and Roche, which presented opportunities to visit their research and development sites. These visits confirmed my career path - become a scientist in a pharmaceutical company and innovate new therapies for unmet medical need.

As I pursued my career I realized women were a minority. When I had my daughter I wanted to inspire her and other girls to be excited about science and engineering and the possibility of pursuing careers in STEM fields. Conducting science and engineering experiments in my daughter's class since she started kindergarten three years ago has been my solution for spreading my passion for science to other girls. Pay it forward is what I believe. The teachers that crossed my path of education since I was in elementary school have taught me that curiosity is infectious and you can spread simply by showing it off.

*Q: How as having your family with you impacted your Fulbright experience?*

Smitesh and Lopa: Being a Fulbright Scholar grantee, I was incredibly honored and looked forward to carrying out my proposed work. However, I never anticipated the impact my whanau (family) would have on the overall experience. The intercultural exchange through my wife and children will likely remain with us as a treasured outcome of our stay in New Zealand. Having our children join

us for this adventure has enabled access to a range of new and unexpected experiences. Our children were exposed to the Maori culture, songs, dances, and language at their schools. As a result, they experienced the celebration of diversity more intimately than they have been typically exposed to.

Our daughter always reminds us to perform the Karakia before meals. Through our children we were introduced to a refreshing approach towards teaching. The schools our children attend live by the "it takes a village to raise a child" philosophy. Hence parents are encouraged to get involved in the child's education by participating in the school. This provided an amazing opportunity for us to not only learn from other parents and the teachers but to also contribute by conducting science sessions at the school.

The principal of the Newton Central School, Riki Teteina, began the school year by saying how we learn by failing and making mistakes. Similarly, our son's kindergarten shared a pamphlet on 'Risk Taking' and how physical and emotional risk taking was an important part of growing up. The importance that these two institutions gave to such a 'growth mindset' was refreshing and something that we will take back with us. Furthermore, both these institutions focus heavily on maintaining a close connection with nature and the environment. Our daughter plays in the forest and builds huts while our son learns to compost and take care of hatchlings. Therefore, we were pleasantly surprised by how much we are learning through our children, far exceeding my award objectives.



**ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT:**

## MAKING HEADLINES IN THE 2018 NEW ZEALAND FESTIVAL

*The 2018 New Zealand Festival featured work from some of our most eminent arts alumni.*

New Zealand Poet Laureate **Selina Tusitala Marsh** (1995 Fulbright New Zealand Graduate Award) performed in a number of events, including “*Women Changing the World*,” the opening to the Writer’s and Reader’s series.

**Miria George** (2016 Fulbright-Creative New Zealand Pacific Writer’s Residency) directed *Bless the Child*.

Lauded poet, performer and writer **Tusiata Avia** (2005 Fulbright-Creative New Zealand Pacific Writer’s Residency) joined her cousin **Victor Rodger** (2006 Fulbright-Creative New Zealand Pacific Writer’s Residency), award-winning playwright and producer, to talk about family, growing up as Polynesian Cantabrians and creative pursuits

in their first ever onstage conversation in a special Writer’s and Reader’s session. They also talked about their collaboration on *Wild Dogs Under My Skirt*, the award-winning stage adaptation of Avia’s debut poetry collection. Produced by Rodger, this enchanting, powerful show played at the 2018 New Zealand Festival, 7–11 March.

**Bill Manhire** (1999 New Zealand Visiting Scholar) read poetry as part of Summer Shorts.

**Ruth Watson** (2015 Fulbright Wallace Arts Trust Award) was commissioned by the Wellington Sculpture Trust for the festival, and produced *Four Globes for 4 Plinths*, which are on display outside of Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa.



**NEW ZEALAND  
FESTIVAL** 23 February —  
18 March 2018





**ALAN DALY**

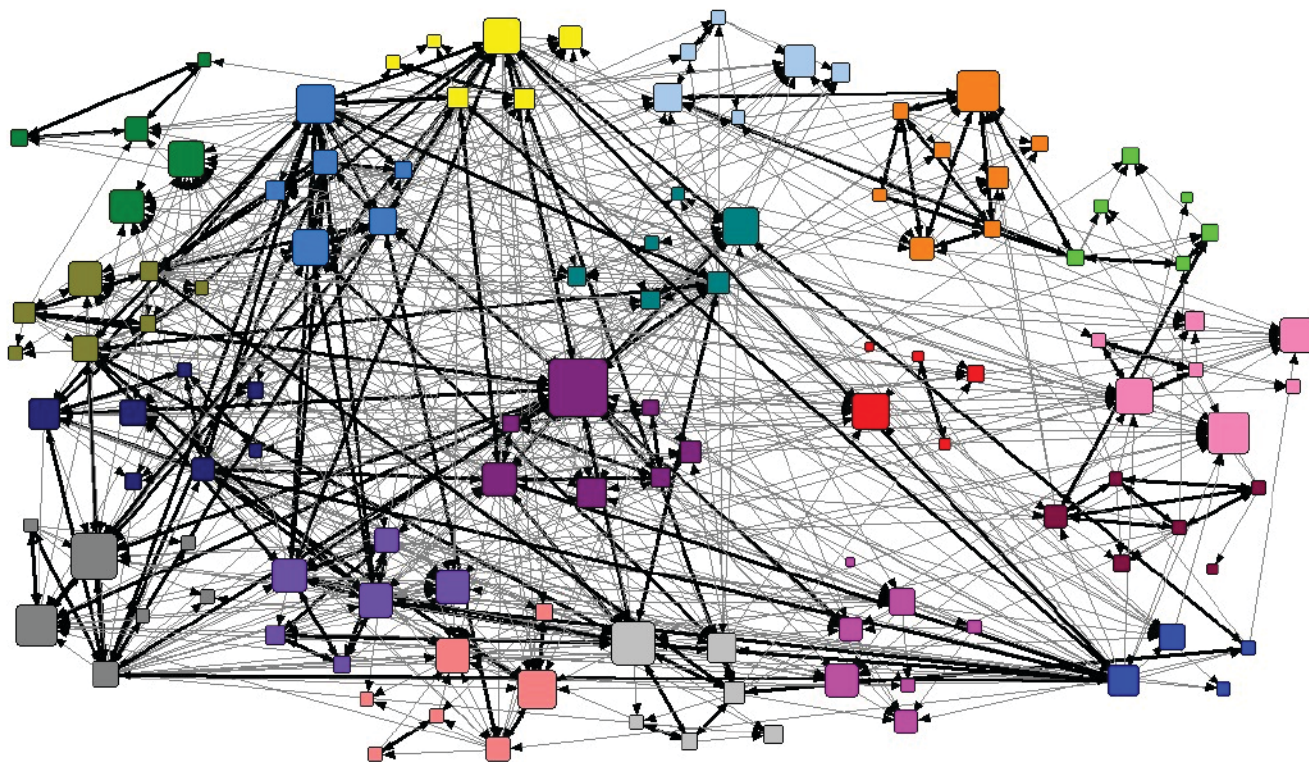
2017 FULBRIGHT GLOBAL  
SCHOLAR

Fulbright Global Scholar Alan Daly is in New Zealand to study “The Social Side of Educational Change: A multi-country examination of social networks in New Zealand.” He stopped by the Fulbright office before giving a presentation to the Ministry of Education. He is based the University of Auckland and then will head on to the next segment of his award in South Africa.

## GUEST ARTICLE:

# NEW ZEALAND EDUCATION EXPERTISE SHOULD BE HONOURED

*This is a guest article by Kate O'Malley, Content Writer and Coordinator from the Communications and Marketing team for the Faculty of Education and Social Work at The University of Auckland. Published: 6 March 2018.*



ABOVE: EACH SQUARE REFLECTS A MATH TEACHER AND THE SQUARES ARE COLORED BY THE SCHOOLS IN WHICH THESE TEACHERS WORK. THE LINES REPRESENT A MATHS ADVICE NETWORK—MEANING TO WHO AND FROM WHOM EACH TEACHER RECEIVES ADVICE ABOUT MATHS. THE GRAPH SHOWS THE CONNECTIONS BETWEEN SCHOOLS AND HOW TEACHERS SUPPORT ONE ANOTHER IN IMPROVING MATH INSTRUCTION.

Aotearoa New Zealand shouldn't be too quick to look overseas for models on how to reform its education system, says visiting Fulbright Global Scholar Professor Alan J Daly. Instead the starting point for reimagining and retooling the future of education should be identifying and rigorously examining the strengths and sources of expertise within New Zealand, and building on those assets as well as thoughtfully spreading them across the country.

It's too easy, he cautions, to turn to other countries like Finland or Singapore for solutions. "There is plenty of expertise within New Zealand – including the expertise not only sited at universities, but expertise also in the many cultural, social and intellectual assets of educators, youth, parents and communities."

New Zealand's strength, according to Dr Daly, is its connectivity and networks of relationships. He believes networks and relationships are vital to improving education systems, through collaboration and working together to innovate and devise solutions—we are "better together" Daly says.

A teacher, psychologist, principal and now an academic at the University of California, San Diego, Professor Daly is in NZ for three months researching how NZ uses connectivity and networks of relationships to improve classroom practice. So far, he's impressed by New Zealanders' passion, thoughtfulness and willingness to consider innovative approaches to educational reform.

The New Zealand system of Communities of Learning or Kāhui Ako, is a positive initiative, he says. Too often, in the past teachers around the world were in classrooms toiling alone trying to improve children's educational prospects. Communities of Learning recognise that knowledge sharing and deep meaningful relationships are critical to devise solutions, generate context specific

approaches, and ultimately improve student outcomes.

"Many educational reformers think everything is a knowledge problem – the idea that if we only provided more training all will improve. However, the process of change and growth is far more complex and in my work I am focused on promoting the idea of knowledge sharing through relationship building, which is often overlooked in reform in favour of or of technical fixes. There's a growing recognition that high-level trusting and caring relationships support the type of collaboration that is necessary to solve complex problems."

Another important concept is that of "vulnerability" – education leaders need to admit that they don't know everything, and to be open to new input and ideas. "Emotions of leaders are very contagious. When leaders model being vulnerable, schools, teachers, communities and policy makers can co-create and co-design the type of futures they most desire."

Dr Daly cautions against quick fixes or technical fixes to complex adaptive problems. "These quick solutions might stop people using their ability to wrestle with problems in deep and meaningful ways."

Professor Daly noted that, "Coming together to recognise and access diverse perspectives is more important than ever. Although, many messages of divisiveness are being spread in the world, Dr Daly is hugely optimistic about connectivity worldwide to solve complex social issues. "Rather than being defined by our differences, we should be strengthened by them."

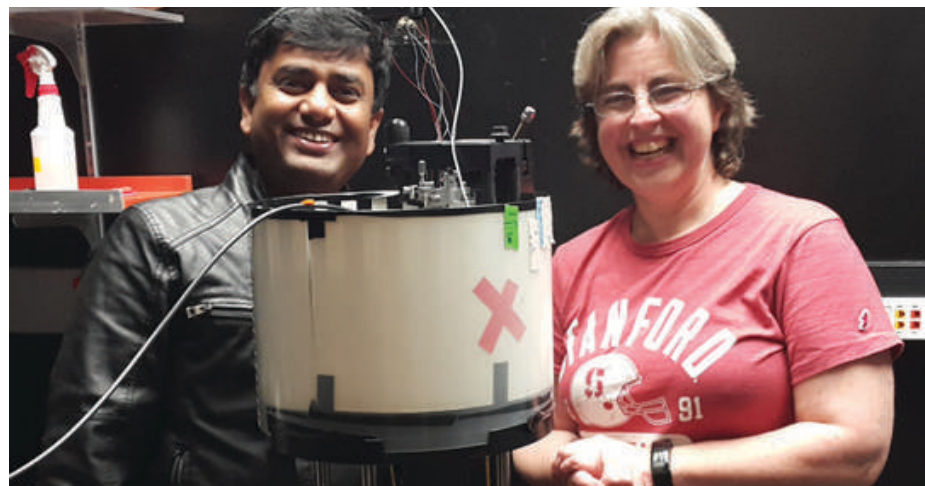
Alan J Daly, PhD, is Chair and Professor of the Department of Education Studies at the University of California, San Diego. He is also the Executive Editor of the new Open Access Sage Journal Educational Neuroscience.





**RUTH EMPSON**  
2017 FULBRIGHT  
NEW ZEALAND SCHOLAR

Ruth Empson from Dunedin participated in research to understand how brain activity controls movement at the Department of Neurobiology at Stanford University. Ruth is an Associate Professor in Physiology at the University of Otago.



TOP PHOTO: RUTH WITH SOME OF THE RAYMOND LAB AT THE STANFORD FACULTY CLUB: TIINA MATIINNEN, RUTH EMPSON, JENNIFER RAYMOND, AMIN SHAKHOWAT, MAX GAGNON, JAMES DANG. ABOVE: WITH DR AMIN SHAKHOWAT IN THE RAYMOND LAB WITH SOME OF THE RESEARCH EQUIPMENT. LEFT: RUTH'S LEAVING CAKE: VOR STANDS FOR VESTIBULAR OCULAR REFLEX!



FULBRIGHT  
ENRICHMENT SEMINAR –  
ENTREPRENEURSHIP IN  
THE DEEP SOUTH.

## PERSPECTIVE-SHIFTS IN SILICON VALLEY AND THE DEEP SOUTH

*A Reflection from NZ Scholar Ruth M Empson, Dept of Physiology at the University of Otago.*

Palo Alto, Silicon Valley, California, home to Stanford, Facebook HQ and Googleplex, is quite simply unique, and in many ways culturally as far from New Zealand as you could imagine. Despite these cultural differences and challenges, my time at Stanford was richly rewarding – but not quite in ways that I could have predicted!

My research in Neurobiology was immensely ambitious and the experience of immersing myself in new ideas with freedom to think, was perspective-shifting and a great gift. Perhaps predictably, the research proved technically frustrating and instead, I learnt the far greater value of the relationships developed with my lab hosts. Adversity can foster lasting friendship, and now back in New Zealand we are continuing the work, guided by the science and each other. My host, Prof Jennifer Raymond, will give the Department of Physiology's prestigious annual Eccles Lecture later this year and a PhD student from

my lab will head to Stanford next year.

Part of my time was also spent interacting with fellow Fulbrighters at an Enrichment Seminar in Alabama in the Deep South of the US. Certainly, my perspective of the South changed as we were introduced to the abounding innovation in the Space City of Huntsville, rivalling that of Silicon Valley. A thought-provoking visit to the Human Rights museum in Birmingham, Alabama also reminded us of our shared humanity. Meeting fellow Fulbrighters was simply incredible; though from diverse cultures our shared Fulbright bond facilitated amazing discussion and enduring friendships.

My Fulbright experience was life-changing. I remain very grateful to the Fulbright vision for providing me with time to think, to reflect upon and grow my research, and for helping me appreciate our shared humanity and the value of experiencing new places and people.





**FRANCES HUGHES**  
2012 FULBRIGHT NEW  
ZEALAND SENIOR SCHOLAR

Frances Hughes from Porirua researched the preparation of health professionals for psychosocial response to natural disasters and maintaining long-term competency, at Rutgers University in Piscataway, New Jersey. Frances is the Executive Director of Cutting Edge Oceania, and previously served as the CEO for the International Council of Nurses in Geneva, Switzerland.



## ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT:

# A SURREAL WEEK IN DAVOS

*The World Economic Forum (WEF) annual meeting in Davos is attended by the brightest and most powerful influencers in the world. Fulbright New Zealand alumna Dr. Frances Hughes had the privilege of attending and shares her experience below.*

Over the past two years I have been living and working in Switzerland, as CEO of an international NGO. Late last year, I began widening my networks and becoming involved in issues relating to migrants and displaced refugees, as well as the technology that can assist. I became involved with “gurus” of industry, including Monique Marrow, who is the Chief Technologist Strategist and Founder of Humanised Internet.

Through my work I was privileged to complete one of my “bucket lists:” an invite and sponsorship to Davos. To be invited was one thing, but to then be sponsored by private benefactors who believed in my ability to contribute at events both in Klosters and Davos was another.

It was the first time I felt part of something “big,” where people, if they chose, had the ability and resources to make major change, and it was not about health but everything about health (social determinants).

The week long experience was “surreal.” Events occurred on multiple levels, from the small, “salon” style discussions to main plenaries of heads of state, but it was the small 20-30 salons that were so rich. Due to the geographical constraints, Davos was intimate, exaggerated by incredible snow and ice. I have never attended such high level meetings in snow boots.

On all levels, I met and observed kings and queens of industry, from Bill Gates in a local hotel bar to Ministers and Heads of Government. The town of Davos became a shop front for thought leaders.

I was fortunate to be asked to be on panels on leadership, migrants, and women empowerment. Intellectually, I was like a sponge, soaking up issues and concepts such as blockchain, with billionaires of industry.

When asked what did this experience do for me, my response was it challenged me, it opened my mind to the wider context, and it confirmed that health and health policy is totally related to socio-political and economic systems, but many health practitioners are never taught this. The experience, like my Harkness Fellowship and my Fulbright scholarship, built and expanded my network. Since January, I have been actively involved in planning forums and summits for fall and next January at Klosters and Davos.

Being a Fulbright opens doors, but it was up to me to walk through them and take up the opportunities. If ever these opportunities come your way, grab them, embrace them, have confidence you can contribute as an equal regardless of status and bank balances. That was my take home from Davos. I did and it has now allowed me to work and network with more amazing people.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 30





“ **Being a Fulbright opens doors, but it was up to me to walk through them** and take up the opportunities. If ever these opportunities come your way, grab them, embrace them, have confidence you can contribute as an equal regardless of status and bank balances. ”

## ABOVE: ALUMNI DR. FRANCES HUGHES PRESENTS AT THE WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 28

To watch Dr. Hughes's panel presentation "NextGen Leadership Series: Leadership for the 4th Industrial Revolution" visit: <http://bit.ly/FrancesHughesWEF18>

CAPTIONS FROM PAGE 28/29. TOP LEFT AND RIGHT: ONE OF MANY NETWORKING DINNERS DURING THE WEEK. FRANCES MET THE PREVIOUS PRESIDENT OF CBS AND PROFESSOR PHILIP POLKOFF FROM STANFORD.

BOTTOM LEFT AND RIGHT: FRANCES WITH AKRAM, WHO IS A SYRIAN REFUGEE IN GERMANY AND IS PART OF THE HUMANISED INTERNET. HE ACCOMPANIED FRANCES AND MONIQUE AND WAS PART OF THEIR MEETINGS.

## NEWS FROM THE WELLINGTON OFFICE:

# STOP IN FOR A CUPPA

True to New Zealand culture, every day at 10:15am the Fulbright office pauses to take part in the Dominion Post Quiz over coffee. We always welcome those in the neighbourhood to drop by and join us - if you'd like to schedule a time feel free to email [alumni@fulbright.org.nz](mailto:alumni@fulbright.org.nz) or reach out to your programme manager.

So far this year we have had the pleasure of welcoming a number of grantees and alumni, including:

- US Graduate Awardee **Liz Adetiba** is part of our 2018 cohort and is based in Wellington researching Iwi led justice panels and their use in combatting Maori incarceration.
- We welcomed **Amanda Short** who is also part of the 2018 cohort and undertaking her Fulbright Distinguished Awards in Teaching Programme for US Teachers scholarship. She talked to us about her project 'Creating culturally relevant pedagogy and curricular practices based on Maori education'.
- Another of our Distinguished Teachers, **Christian Czaniecki** came in to meet the team over tea, and talk about his research project on the intersection of multiculturalism and the arts.
- **Alice Johnson-Cain** popped by while on holiday in NZ. Alice is an Ian Axford Fellowship in Public Policy alumna. She is currently the Vice President of Policy and Partnerships for Teach Plus in Maryland and is running for office in 2018.
- We were delighted to meet Global Scholar **Alan Daly** who presented to us on his work that examines social networks in schools. Alan Daly is Chair and Professor of the Department of Education Studies at the University of California, San Diego.
- **Karsten Lorentz** dropped in for morning tea (with Tim Tams!) to let us know how he's going with his research 'Bedrock to Soil: In-situ Measurements of Initial Weathering for Proglacial Environments.'
- Axford alumna **Arnell Hinkle** stopped by our office while passing through Wellington during her time in New Zealand. Arnell undertook her Ian Axford Fellowship in Public Policy award in 2010.
- Lastly **Sarah Bolton**, another Axford alumna joined us for great discussions and talked about the recent Kiwi Foo Unconference she attended in Snells Beach, Auckland.





**SARITA MAGAN**  
EVENTS AND ALUMNI  
COORDINATOR

## STAFF UPDATES

**Sarita Magan** joined the Fulbright team at the end of January as our Events and Alumni Coordinator. She was previously working with Venues Wellington as part of their Events team, and brings with her experience and passion for organising events. Sarita holds a Bachelor of Communications Degree from Massey University Wellington, where she graduated in 2013 with a major in Public Relations. She is looking forward to assisting with the events around Fulbright’s 70th Anniversary this year.

**Lauren Parsons** will be staying on as Programme Manager. Lauren continues on from **Magnolia Wilson’s** maternity leave cover, as featured with her daughter Delphi in the September 2017 Bright Sparks. Magnolia will be working part time as the administrator for Short Courses at Massey University, while she continues to spend time with Delphi. Magnolia is also working on her first book, which will be published with Auckland University Press next year.

**Lyn Allday** is now the receptionist at the Todd Corporation in Wellington.



## FULBRIGHT IN EAST-ASIA PACIFIC

# FULBRIGHT REGIONAL CONFERENCE IN JAKARTA

The first Fulbright East Asia Pacific Regional meeting for over five years took place in Jakarta from 5 to 9 March 2018. The 54 attendees consisted of Fulbright Commission Executive Directors and US Embassy Public Affairs Officers and senior executives from the Department of State, Education and Cultural Affairs (ECA) and the Institute of International Education (IIE).

“It proved to be the best gathering I’ve attended for discussion of best practice, issues facing the Fulbright programme and policy and programme updates,” said Penelope Borland, Executive Director.

Fulbright Board Member and US Embassy Public Affairs Officer Dolores Prin also attended.

MFAT doubling its Treaty funding to Fulbright New Zealand was applauded, and Penelope moderated and spoke on the strategic planning session covering the topics of policy priorities, relationships with host country governments, partnerships and fundraising. Dolores spoke on our diversity practices and statistics on the panel on diversity, a key priority for Fulbright worldwide. It was a very successful conference for Fulbright New Zealand.

TOP PHOTO (LEFT TO RIGHT) JULIA FINDLAY (ECA), PENELOPE BORLAND (ED NEW ZEALAND), ALAN FEINSTEIN (ED INDONESIA), ADAM MEIRER (ECA).  
BOTTOM PHOTO: GROUP SHOT FROM THE CONFERENCE.

## HAVE NEWS TO SHARE?

EMAIL [ALUMNI@FULBRIGHT.ORG.NZ](mailto:ALUMNI@FULBRIGHT.ORG.NZ)

We would love to hear what you’ve been up to! We welcome your letters, articles, notices and story ideas. Please note, any material submitted may be edited for publication.



# KNOW A FUTURE FULBRIGHTER?

Fulbright New Zealand offers a range of exchange awards for New Zealand and United States citizens wanting to study, research, teach or present their work in each other's country. We love for our alumni and contacts to share their experiences, and spread the word about our programme to potential applicants.

## AWARD TYPE

Fulbright New Zealand General Graduate Awards  
Fulbright Science & Innovation Graduate Awards  
Fulbright-EQC Graduate Award in Natural Disaster Research  
Fulbright-Ngā Pae o te Māramatanga Graduate Award  
Fulbright Specialist Awards  
Fulbright US Scholar Awards  
Fulbright New Zealand Scholar Awards  
Fulbright-Ngā Pae o te Māramatanga Scholar Award  
Fulbright US Graduate Awards  
New Zealand Harkness Fellowships  
Fulbright-Scholar in Residence Program  
Fulbright Distinguished Awards in Teaching Programme for NZ Teachers  
Fulbright Distinguished Awards in Teaching Programme for US Teachers  
Fulbright-Creative New Zealand Pacific Writers' Residency  
Ian Axford (New Zealand) Fellowships in Public Policy  
Fulbright-Wallace Arts Trust Award  
John F. Kennedy Memorial Fellowship

## APPLICATION DEADLINE

1 August annually  
1 August annually  
1 August annually  
1 August annually  
1 August annually  
1 August annually  
1 October annually  
1 October annually  
11 October annually  
14 October annually  
14 October annually  
1 November annually  
1 December annually  
1 March annually  
1 April annually  
26 July annually  
By appointment only

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