

December 2017



BRIGHT SPARKS

Inside: Fulbright in the whānau - Grantees share stories of bringing (or having!) their children as part of their Fulbright experience.



Also In This Issue | 2018 Specialists Announced | Event Recap: A Warm Welcome for Abby McBride | It's Fall Y'all | Fulbright Celebrates Thanksgiving with Ambassador Scott Brown and wife Gail | Island Aloha from Fulbright NZ Graduate Grantee Trish Tupou with Feature: Map As Story | Rocky Mountain Heights from Fulbright NZ Graduate Grantee Hazelle Tomlin in Colorado | Leading the Way: Fulbright US Grantee Kyla Siemens and HER2 Genetic Oncology Research

COVER PHOTO CONTRIBUTED BY LAVIE RAVEN. LAVIE'S DAUGHTER ZAHRAA ENJOYS A SUNNY DAY ON THE WELLINGTON WATERFRONT | STORY ON PAGE 16

EDITOR'S NOTE

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**PENELOPE
BORLAND**

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

We have just said Haere rā to our 2017 US graduates, hearing their report backs on their experience and study, and celebrating Thanksgiving with US Ambassador Scott Brown and Gail Brown. One of the consistent theme our awardees talk about is how the Fulbright experience has changed their lives forever, the incredible journey of personal growth, and the connectedness that it brings: this is our theme for this issue of Bright Sparks.

We feature Fulbright families and the difference that seeing a culture through the eyes of children makes, and the connections which would never be made alone. We see Hawaii through the eyes and voice of grantee Trish Tupou, with the gorgeous Island Aloha photoshoot and “Map as Story” original poem. In every issue, we also look at work that has a potentially transformative impact on our world. This issue we feature US Graduate Kyla Siemens, as she has been working on genetic resistance to drugs commonly used for the treatment of HER2-positive breast cancer, in hopes of leading to more effective personalised management for better outcomes. We also hear about life in Colorado from NZ Graduate Hazelle Tomlin, who is getting stuck into carbon fluxes and global change while conquering her fear of heights.

Please enjoy this final edition of Bright Sparks for 2017 and we look forward to celebrating our 70th anniversary with you next year.

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IN THE NEWS



CONGRATULATIONS JOE BEAGLEHOLE

2017 HARKNESS FELLOW

The Chairman of the New Zealand Harkness Fellowships Trust Board Ross Tanner is pleased to announce the New Zealand Harkness Fellow for 2017, Mr. Joe Beaglehole. Joe is from Wellington and will spend three months in New York researching new tools for addressing the challenges of rapid urbanisation. Joe is a Senior Policy Analyst at the Ministry for the Environment where he works on urban policy issues. He graduated with a BA (Hons) in Philosophy from Victoria University of Wellington in 2005 and completed a Master's degree at New York University in 2011.

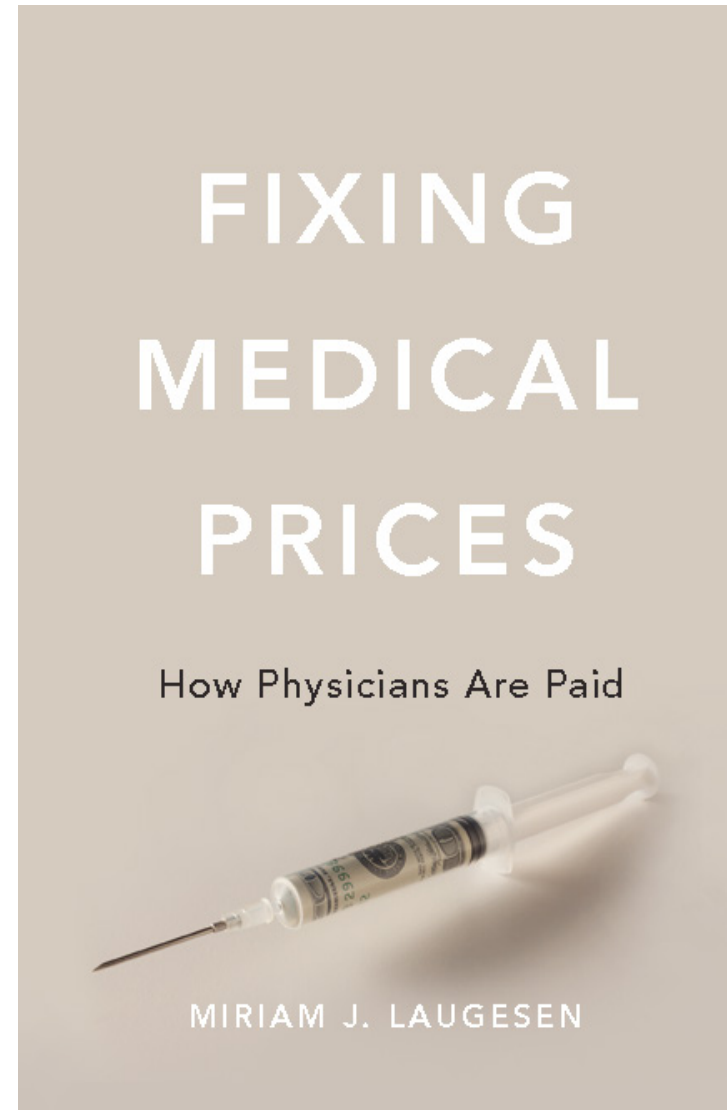
For over sixty years, Harkness Fellowships (*administered by Fulbright New Zealand*) have enabled mid-career professionals who aspire to significant leadership roles to take fellowships in the United States.



MIRIAM J. LAUGESSEN

FULBRIGHT NEW ZEALAND
GRADUATE AWARD, 1992

Miriam J. Laugesen is Associate Professor in the Department of Health Policy and Management at the Mailman School of Public Health, Columbia University. She is the author of *Fixing Medical Prices: How Physicians are Paid*, (Cambridge and London: Harvard University Press, 2016). *Pictured Right.*



IN PUBLICATION:

FIXING MEDICAL PRICES, HOW PHYSICIANS ARE PAID
BY: MIRIAM LAUGESSEN

Fixing Medical Prices goes to the heart of the U.S. medical pricing process: to a largely unknown yet influential committee of medical organizations affiliated with the American Medical Association that advises Medicare. Author Dr. Miriam Laugesen is a past Public Voices Fellow in The Op-Ed Project's Columbia University Cohort 2015-2016, and a past recipient of a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Investigator Award in Health Policy Research. She graduated from Victoria University of Wellington and completed her 1992 Fulbright NZ Graduate Award at Washington University St. Louis.

From Harvard University Press:

"Medical care prices in the United States are not only the most expensive in the world, but there are wide variations in what physicians are paid. Doctors at the frontlines of medical care who manage complex conditions argue that they receive disproportionately lower fees than physicians performing services such as minor surgeries and endoscopies. Fixing Medical Prices goes to the heart of the U.S. medical pricing process: to a largely unknown yet influential committee of medical organizations affiliated with the American Medical Association that advises Medicare. Medicare's ready acceptance of this committee's recommendations typically sets off a chain reaction across the entire American health care system.

Laugesen's investigation into the exorbitant cost of American medical care will be of interest to those who follow the politics of health care policy, the influence of interest groups on rate setting, and the medical profession's past and future role in our health care system."

2018 FULBRIGHT SPECIALISTS ANNOUNCED

Six Specialist Awards were selected in August 2017 and have now received final Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board approval:

THE UNIVERSITY OF AUCKLAND to bring Professor Chris Chunting Mi from San Diego State University, CA from 17 November - 3 December 2017 to undertake activities related to Wireless Power Transfer Technology for Engineering Education.

THE UNIVERSITY OF AUCKLAND to bring Dr Steven Hughes from the University of Colorado, CO in May-June 2018 to undertake activities related to Excellence in Coastal Engineering Education.

UNIVERSITY OF OTAGO to bring Professor Roger Narayan from University of North Carolina, NC from 6 November - 22 November 2017 to undertake activities related to US-NZ Collaboration on Bioink Development for 3D Bioprinting.

UNIVERSITY OF OTAGO to bring Professor Charles Webel of Chapman University, Orange CA from 5 March - 14 April 2018 to undertake activities related to Peace, Conflict & Terrorism Studies: Policy Study NZ.

UNIVERSITY OF WAIKATO to bring Professor Emeritus Lynn Bloom from University of Connecticut, CT from 14 February - 27 February 2018 to undertake activities related to Writing Matters.

NZ PROSTITUTE'S COLLECTIVE to bring Assistant Professor Jill McCracken from University of South Florida, FL from 13 July - 23 August 2018 to undertake activities related to The Impact of Sex Work Legislation on Violence & Trafficking.



MELANIE HIGGINS, US CONSUL GENERAL; ABBY MCBRIDE, 2017 FULBRIGHT-NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC DIGITAL STORYTELLING FELLOW; PENELOPE BORLAND, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, FULBRIGHT NEW ZEALAND. PHOTOS PROVIDED BY THE US EMBASSY & CONSULATE IN NEW ZEALAND.

EVENT RECAP: THE NEXT CHAPTER OF ABBY'S #SEABIRD STORY

New Zealand's first ever Fulbright-National Geographic Digital Storytelling Fellow, Abby McBride, was welcomed at a reception hosted by the Auckland War Memorial Museum and Fulbright New Zealand in October.

Conservationists, Fulbright alumni, and seabird enthusiasts around Auckland were invited to a welcome reception for Abby McBride, 2017 Fulbright-National Geographic Digital Storytelling Fellow, on Thursday 12 October. This reception was an opportunity to learn about her work and observations on New Zealand's extraordinary conservation efforts as the "seabird capital of the world."

Hosted by the Auckland War Memorial Museum, guests enjoyed hearing from Fulbright New Zealand Executive Director

Penelope Borland and US Consul General Melanie Higgins on the importance of the award and what it means for conservation efforts. Matt Rayner, Abby's host supervisor from the Auckland War Memorial Museum, spoke on his work, and the collaboration with Abby.

Abby gave an overview of her proposed work and spoke with guests over drinks and nibbles. She is heading to the Auckland Islands in November and then goes on to the Chathams over Christmas. Follow her on social media for updates with #SeabirdStory.



FOLLOW ABBY'S ADVENTURES:



@SketchBiologist
www.abbymcbride.com
#SeabirdStory



Check out her blog:
https://voices.
nationalgeographic.org/
author/amcbride/



IT'S FALL Y'ALL!

We asked our 2017 Fulbright New Zealand Graduates how they are celebrating their first Fall season in the US.

Table of Contents Photo: **Rebecca Bonnevie** and her family attended the Halloween parade and admired the fall foliage in Cold Spring, NY.

1. **Paige Thomas** went to the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade in NYC and said the 6 a.m. start to be in the front row was totally worth it!
2. **Salina Fisher's** kiwi pumpkin carving.
3. **Richard Hunter** spent a brilliant weekend with the Georgia Institute of Technology Triathlon team at fall training camp in northern Georgia.
4. **Charlotte Skerten** on a pre-turkey stroll to the Supreme Court.
5. **Kate Turner** went ice fishing on Thanksgiving in Alaska.
6. **Hanareia Ehau-Taumaunu** deciding between pumpkin and apple pie for desert - she went with the apple. She celebrated Thanksgiving dinner with the FiGE crew hosted by Penn State Global Programs (Foundation in Global Engagement).
7. **Hanareia's** first ground snow at Penn State - photo in front of Old Main Building.
8. **Paige Thomas's** Thanksgiving spread.





HAPPY THANKSGIVING

The Fulbright New Zealand team and US Graduates celebrated Thanksgiving with Ambassador Scott Brown and his wife, Gail Brown.

Thank you to Scott and Gail Brown for hosting the Fulbright staff and 2017 US Graduate grantees for a lovely Thanksgiving dinner. Thursday 23 November was a rare and gorgeous 20 degree spring day in Wellington, and we enjoyed drinks and nibbles on the lawn, complete with cornhole and walks through the rose garden at Camperdown. Dinner was served, and all guests shared their family Thanksgiving traditions around the table. We ended the evening with an exciting tour of the newly minted "Rock 'n Roll" wing of the residence, and guests took turns playing the drumset from the infamous hair band, KISS, and their most recent world tour.

ISLAND ALOHA



Trish Tupou, 2017 Fulbright New Zealand Graduate Award grantee from Auckland, is working towards her Master of Arts in Pacific Islands Studies at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. Trish is specialising in climate change and indigenous environmental narratives, and has shared these photos and an original poem with us from her Fulbright experience thus far in Hawai'i.

PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED BY TRISH TUPOU.

MAP AS STORY
BY TRISH TUPOU

She asked me where
I was from

I said, I cannot draw
you a map, but I can tell you
a story.

This is a sting ray and a waka,
this is a mountain
- *mo'unga/maunga/mauna* -
folded into the ocean,
between the strands of Pele,
the skies of Tangaloa,
and seas of Tangaroa,
with plastic bags
and Jelly fish.

This is a story
- *fananga/pūrākau/mo'olelo* -
that is turning
in the waves,
retracting words
with water.

Rising moon
from the maunga,
watching over
wealth
and
scattered tents -
this is a
wandering cat,
in the night,
learning her
surroundings,
tracing lines,
finding home.

This is a girl,
floating on her back,
watching the moon
fall back into a blue sky,
feeling the hum
of the Moana
passing through her ears.

This map is a story
of shifting islands,
of moving homes.



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED BY TRISH TUPOU.

FULBRIGHT IN THE WHĀNAU

We talked with four Fulbrighters, all from different awards, who brought children, or in some special cases, gave birth, during their Fulbright experience. Here's their take on making Fulbright something for the whole whānau.

A Fulbright award is far more than a scholarship - it is an experience. For some of our grantees, it's an experience shared with partners, visiting family members or lifelong friends. But for a few of our grantees, a Fulbright is a family experience.

We talked to Beth Burkhart (2016 Fulbright Distinguished Awards in Teaching Programme for US Teachers), Michelle Johnson-Jennings (2017 Fulbright US Scholar), Jill Ozarski (2015 Ian Axford (New Zealand) Fellow in Public Policy), and Lavie Raven (2016 Fulbright Distinguished Awards in Teaching Programme for US Teachers).

What was your experience bringing your children on your Fulbright award?

Beth: We came to New Zealand with our six-year-old daughter, Eliza. Halfway through my Fulbright, I gave birth to our second daughter, Augusta Victoria. Being with our children in New Zealand allowed us to experience the country and culture in unique ways. Eliza attended our neighborhood public school, joined the local diving team, and went to birthday parties, while Geoff and I became friends with the neighborhood parents. Giving birth so far from home was intimidating at

first, but I received excellent care from the New Zealand doctors, nurses, and midwives. It was fascinating to get firsthand experience of another healthcare system.

Michelle: When I applied for the Fulbright, I fully intended to bring my 3 children along, but I had not realized the level of enrichment that we would all experience. My children were to be 11, 15 and 17 years old for the 2017 start date. I didn't know at the time of my application that we would be gifted a new addition to our family on January 11, 2017. As ecstatic as we were, the February start date became quite complicated. Long story short, I packed up my 2 week old infant- after a frenzy to get his passport in time for our departure. We arrived in February to attend orientation, spend our first month and establish my research plan while working around my maternity leave. This was a beautiful way to introduce our children to the culture and our new home.

We then returned on July 1, 2017 (which worked well for both my host institution and home institute) and were determined to immerse ourselves in the culture. My two middle children immediately visited their prospective schools and obtained uniforms,

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PHOTO CONTRIBUTED BY BETH BURKHART.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED BY MICHELLE JOHNSON-JENNINGS.



which was a new experience for them. My eldest was preparing to attend Dartmouth College, so she provided family support until then. We arrived during school holidays so all children had down time to settle into our new home.

First off, we committed to exploring the land each evening and weekend. This meant family trips to the beach, hiking a mountain, or walking along a lake or river. Connecting to the land was quite important and a wonderful way to acquaint ourselves with Aotearoa. We also felt grounded from the beginning and was a nice way to get through home sickness.

Jill: I was 20 weeks pregnant with my first baby when I arrived in New Zealand for my seven-month Ian Axford Public Policy Fellowship. I felt a little crazy at the time, but in retrospect it was exactly the way it was meant to be.

One of the most important parts of the Fulbright experience is witnessing how people live in other parts of the world. My partner and I embraced that. We experienced a different health care system (which was wonderful and significantly more affordable than the US). We learned how to be new parents at ante-natal classes – which are awkward and somewhat overwhelming in any culture – surrounded by Kiwi parents, accents and unknown terms, and unexpected but funny awkward moments.

My colleagues went out of their way to make us feel comfortable and cared for even though we were far from home for one of the most momentous times of our lives. People loaned us baby stuff, threw us a surprise baby shower, and delivered meals and encouragement in the exhausting days and weeks after our daughter was born. We loved and trusted our obstetrician and

midwife. One of our neighbors even loaned us a parking spot so that we were close to our door when we brought our wee girl home. We felt part of the community and are proud that our daughter has a birth certificate written in both English and Maori.

Lavie: I brought my youngest daughter, Zahraa, with me for the trip. She attended Ngaio school, and all of the projects I became involved with stemmed from parents and educators at that school. We did a lot of roaming, calling ourselves the ‘public transit pirates.’ We were primarily on foot, bus, or train getting around Wellington, which allowed us to see the town at a different pace. All of the artists and activists we met showed Zahraa so much love, and many of them had children that she played with and spent extended time with. One of our Fulbright coordinators was incredibly sweet and helpful, as Zahraa got to hang out with her son on several playdates.

How did the experience shape your children?

Michelle: My children were surprised to find intricate cultural differences that changed how they viewed themselves. Being Indigenous, they were familiar with Maori culture, but they had presumed that an English speaking country could not be too different otherwise. They quickly learned nuanced differences in speech and behavior. We had many conversations about the history of words and why certain objects were referred to one way over another. They also became aware of social norms that differed from the US and began preferring some over our own.

The children also reflected on our US culture. For instance, they wondered why

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BETH BURKHART

2016 FULBRIGHT DISTINGUISHED AWARD IN TEACHING

Beth Burkhart from Chicago completed an inquiry project on teacher mentoring programmes. Beth teaches math at Goudy Elementary School in Chicago.

Beth's family is pictured above: Geoffery Burkhart, husband; Beth Burkhart; Augusta Burkhart, newborn in New Zealand; Eliza Burkhart, age 5.

CENTRE PHOTOS

TOP: GEOFFERY AND ELIZA BURKHART | MIDDLE : ZAHRAA RAVEN IN FRONT OF LAVIE'S WORK | BOTTOM: MICHELLE JOHNSON-JENNINGS FAMILY & CHILDREN

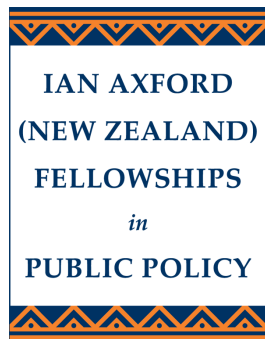


JILL OZARSKI

2015 IAN AXFORD (NEW ZEALAND)
FELLOW IN PUBLIC POLICY

Jill Ozarski from Denver, Colorado researched opportunities for partnerships between natural resource agencies and the private sector, at the New Zealand Department of Conservation. Jill was the Senior Natural Resources Advisor to U.S. Senator Mark Udall from Colorado.

Jill's family is pictured above: Jill Ozarski, Adelaide Ozarski, daughter, and husband Travis Keeley back home in Colorado in 2017.



US music and media was so prevalent-questioning our culture originations and the influence it has on other cultures. On many days the kids and the family were, respectfully, asked about US politics and American Indian current issues, which they have not experienced in the States. As a result, my older son, who is in Year 8, continually reflects on US culture, and certainly politics. He has documented his experiences in Aotearoa in a graphic novel, which he hopes to complete in the near future. All in all, the children made friends and enjoyed their experiences.

Beth: With a New Zealand birth certificate and a middle name that links her to the Mt. Victoria neighborhood, Augusta will

always have an interesting story to tell. The experience transformed Eliza into a more confident and adventurous person. On her first day of school, Eliza was so shy that she hid behind me until I left. By the end of our time in New Zealand, she talked (at length) to almost anyone she met.

Back home, as one of the few people in Chicago who speaks any Maori, Eliza is happy to share songs and sayings with anyone.

Lavie: Zahraa loved attending Ngaio, and she was continually vibrant throughout this trip, and never said she missed home. I don't know what my daughter could foresee that I could not—she told everyone we would be back in two years! I hope so!

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TOP LEFT: ANTHONY LIYANAGE, SON OF KYLA ORR, PROGRAMME MANAGER AND ZAHRAA RAVEN, DAUGHTER OF LAVIE RAVEN, SHARE ICE CREAM CONES AT LYALL BAY | MIDDLE LEFT: MICHELLE JOHNSON-JENNINGS FAMILY & CHILDREN | BOTTOM LEFT: BETH AND AUGUSTA BURKHART | ABOVE: ADELAIDE OZARSKI BORN IN WELLINGTON.

Jill: Our daughter can consistently answer three questions when asked by strangers: “How old are you?... two;” “What is your name?... Adelaide;” and “Where were you born?... New Zealand.” And yes, we chose her name there as well. We named her Adelaide, for the road that runs past Wellington Hospital and for the ship that delivered 176 of the first British settlers to our adopted home city of Wellington in 1840.

Any tips or tricks for other people who may think of bringing children as a barrier?

Jill: We discovered that you can still hike and explore the New Zealand wilderness when you’re pregnant, but it takes about twice as long as the average tourist.

Lavie: Find out about ‘decile’ status and demographics of schools in your residential district. Your child is required to attend the school in your district and every school is unique. Note that there are different visas for children. Some visas are more complicated than needed. I found the student visa to be efficient for my daughter.

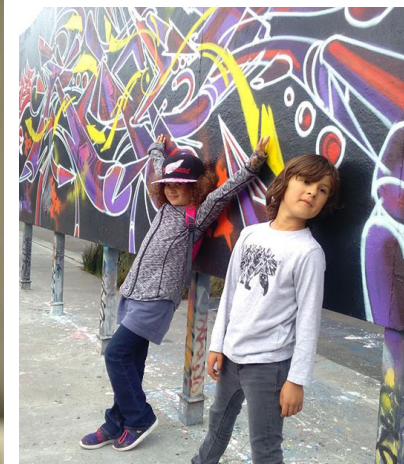
If you or your family have dietary restrictions, find out what foods/grocery/restaurants are available in your residential area.

Beth: Model for your children how to be curious, adventurous, and respectful of different cultures. They will follow your lead. On a more practical note, if you plan to have a baby while in Wellington, you have to go to the Consulate in Auckland to get citizenship sorted out.

Make an appointment early (they fill up fast), and go to a professional photographer for the baby’s passport photo. They are much more forgiving when your baby spits up on the floor.

Michelle: I believe the intent of the Fulbright can be summed into sharing and growing knowledge and children open the cultural exchange to a profound level. They make connections, which I would never have made alone. Further, they see and share the world through different eyes. I have learned more about Aotearoa with them at my side than if I were alone. They also allow you to truly live and experience the culture as a family, as opposed to an extended tourist. For instance, though

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MICHELLE JOHNSON JENNINGS

2017 FULBRIGHT US SCHOLAR AWARD

Michelle Johnson-Jennings of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma researched a framework for Indigenous traditional healing within western medicine.

Michelle is the Director at the Research for Indigenous Community Health (RICH) Center, Associate to the Dean for Indigenous Research and Assistant Professor in the College of Pharmacy at the University of Minnesota.

Michelle’s family is pictured above: Pela Johnson Jennings, age 11; Michelle Johnson-Jennings; Ahnili Johnson-Jennings, age 15; Iaya Johnson-Jennings; Derek Jennings, husband; Alayah Johnson-Jennings, age 17.

FAR LEFT: IAYA JOHNSON-JENNINGS WAS 4 WEEKS OLD AT THE TIME OF ORIENTATION 2-3 FEB 2017. | TOP LEFT: ANTHONY AND ZAHRAA IN FRONT OF LAVIE’S ARTWORK AT WAITANGI PARK. | MIDDLE LEFT: MICHELLE JOHNSON-JENNINGS’ FAMILY EXPLORES NEW ZEALAND | BOTTOM LEFT: ZAHRAA ENJOYING THE BEACH



LAVIE RAVEN

2016 FULBRIGHT DISTINGUISHED AWARDS IN TEACHING
PROGRAMME FOR US TEACHERS

Lavie Raven from Chicago studied the integration of Māori folkloric arts and the hip-hop arts for the purposes of cultural survival and celebration. Lavie is a Social Studies and Language arts teacher at North Lawndale College, and an adjunct professor for Ethics and Pedagogy in Art Education at the School of the Art Institute.

Lavie pictured with his daughter above: Zahraa Raven, age 8.



FAR RIGHT: JILL OZARSKI AND HUSBAND TRAVIS KEELEY WITH NEWBORN ADELAIDE. | TOP RIGHT: ZAHRAA AT THE WELLINGTON WATERFRONT WATCHING THE WAKA. | CENTRE RIGHT: IAYA JOHNSON-JENNINGS MAKES A FRIEND. | BOTTOM LEFT: ILLUSTRATIONS BY AHNILI JOHNSON-JENNINGS OF SCHOOL IN NEW ZEALAND.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED BY JILL OZARSKI

a single adult can get by on take out, we had to make dinner and pack a lunch each day for the kids, which led us to become familiar with the local grocery stores, the store owners and clerks and meet other parents in town. I also had a common link to others who work and have children, which led to many cultural exchanges around parenting.

Some tips would include the following: First check school calendars thoroughly before arrival. The two week school break at the beginning of our stay actually was too long. The children were excited to make friends

and it dragged along. Secondly, we have not had any problems using our university travel insurance for urgent care. However scheduling a routine checkup has been more difficult, as many clinics do not accept out of network patients. Finally, use Grab-a-Seat for some wonderful rates on flights to see NZ. We had many speaking engagements around the Island, and flying is sometimes cheaper than driving. And if all else fails, just ask your host and colleagues what he or she normally does in that situation (e.g., where to shop, what's in season, recycle cardboard, etc.). ■

ROCKY MOUNTAIN HEIGHTS

Hazelle Tomlin, 2017 Fulbright New Zealand Science and Innovation Graduate Grantee from Christchurch, will complete a Master of Environmental Science specialising in Greenhouse Gas Management and Accounting at Colorado State University in Fort Collins, Colorado. She has contributed this story about her Fulbright experience.

Wow! What a whirlwind experience my time in the United States has been so far. After my initial introduction to the US which, involved some serious food poisoning in New Orleans (or NOLA as the locals call it) and a big dose of Creole culture, I jetted off to Atlanta where I spent four jam-packed days with 60 fellow Fulbrighters' from 35 countries. What did not feel like only two weeks later, I launched myself head on into Colorado culture. On my second day in Fort Collins, I got a taste of the local Bluegrass music scene at NewWestFest, a free music festival where I managed to make my first CO friend and experience the reality of altitude.

Halfway through my first drink, I said to her "What do you guys put in your beer over here?"

She simply laughed and said, "It's the altitude, you may never get used to it".

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That weekend really set the tone for the people, the experiences and the laughs I would be exposed to over the next couple of months. Participating in Colorado State University's international community and their events meant that within a few days I had made friends with some outgoing Americans and international students who volunteer as cultural mentors and were keen to show me around.

On my fourth day in Fort Collins, after mentioning to one of my now good friends, that I would like to conquer my fear of heights by learning how to climb, she said she would pick me up in a couple of hours as she was already heading out with some friends that afternoon. We made the short journey up the local foothills into Horsetooth Reservoir to a great all-levels climbing spot called Duncan's Ridge. My new friends harnessed me up, chucked a helmet on my head and essentially pushed the bewildered me off the edge of a cliff to descend by repelling (which I now know translates to abseiling in kiwi). I was hooked! The next day I signed up to a local climbing gym where I could build my strength and keep working on that niggly fear of heights I have.

Since then, I have been climbing at heaps of local spots within a couple of hours of Fort Collins, including the local Poudre River Crystal Wall, the Flat Irons near Boulder, and Shelf Creek down near Colorado Springs.

At the start of September, I was proud to say that I had ascended my first 'fourteener' which in the US refers to a peak over 14,000 when just a few weeks earlier I had been happily existing at sea level. Quandary Peak is actually 4348 metres above sea level. This is so high that I had to request that my friend immediately cease talking politics with me

and that he hold off for the remaining 20 minutes to the summit. I simply did not have enough oxygen coursing through my veins to partake in political conversations.

At the end of October I had the opportunity to join many fellow international students at CSU's Mountain Campus, up in Pingree National Park. It just so happened to coincide with the first mountain snowfall which triggered oh so many of the mountain Aspens to go from green to yellow literally overnight. What a sight! The talent show was also pretty special. Lincoln University and CSU are official exchange partners and so I bumped into another kiwi up there - in the very last place I would have expected to. We thought the international community would enjoy it if we shared 'Poi e' and a few sentiments from my book; Outward Bound Words of Wisdom.

And you're probably thinking I haven't been studying at all since I arrived, on the contrary - I have taken the true kiwi approach to this experience (work hard, play hard) and have had many opportunities present themselves through my coursework. It felt like forever looking forward to this experience, as the Master of Greenhouse Gas Management and Accounting (MGMA) had long since been my dream.

I can now confirm that my supervisors and coursework have surpassed everything that I had hoped for. I am currently working on developing a carbon metric system for an affordable housing redevelopment in Denver called the Sun Valley Eco District. I managed to get my foot in the door for this work via a fellowship with the Institute for the Built Environment (IBE), and once all my assignments are handed in for the week, their office is where I am found, researching carbon management at the district scale.

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PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED BY HAZELLE TOMLIN.

I have also been able to learn from and participate in some of the other workshops that the IBE are involved with. I volunteered to help out at a Community Health Hub meeting, where members from the Fort Collins community were able to voice their hopes for a medium sized local health centre redevelopment, and also at CSU's Energy Institute future direction workshop where we discussed the future of renewables and pathways to energy transitions in the US and around the globe.

Just last weekend it so happened that I had no adventures planned and so I was lucky to be able to volunteer through a CSU event

where, much like the Student Volunteer Army in Christchurch, a small group of us helped some of Fort Collins' elderly residents to clean up their yards. I had also heard through the grape vine of a Fort Collins resident who decided to take America's food waste problem into his own hands. He thinks that 40% of all food end up in landfills is one of the last environmental ills that we escape with. Instead of doing nothing about this like the vast majority of us, he now spends his Sundays going around local supermarkets collecting what would otherwise be thrown out, only to give it away to anyone who wants it for free!

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The fact that we are growing food, which is obviously necessary, and damaging our environment and its ecosystems in the process, only to throw out just under half (not to mention the unnecessary carbon emissions) is something I feel very passionate about so I decided to jump on board with his project and volunteer with Vindeket Foods. And what a great decision that was! I am glad I have found a local project where I can help and hang out with a bunch of great people in the process.

My last note is one on translations. 'All set' is Colorado for 'all good', 'I reckon' is kiwi for 'for sure', 'I'm keen' in CO means 'I want to go with you to such and such', op shops are thrift stores, and asking someone 'how did you find it?' when referencing a test or the movie, means they will give you step by step directions on how either you can get there or how they got there. Finally, my kiwi friend has informed me it is really not a good idea to say 'sweet as' at the end of an exchange with the pretty girl at the gym, in fact he said it was such a bad idea that after seeing her face, he immediately turned around and walked out of the gym – mid workout.

Three months in, I'm really getting stuck into carbon fluxes and global change, I'm still sufficiently beveraged at just two beers and I have many more adventures on the cards. The weather is getting colder as it gets warmer in New Zealand, but I have my ski pass ready to go and will be heading up one of the local fields for the first half of Thanksgiving break before heading down to Indian Creek in Moab National Park for some crack climbing, or "hand-jam heaven" as my climbing buddies say for the second half of the week. And then after only a few more weeks of hard work, who knows what I will get up to over the Christmas and New Year break. Maybe I will go to Mexico. ■

PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED BY HAZELLE TOMLIN.



LEADING THE WAY: HER2 GENETICS

2017 Fulbright US Graduate Grantee Kyla Siemens is currently earning a Master of Biomedical Science degree at the University of Auckland.

My work at the Auckland Cancer Society Research Centre is focused on using a new genetic technology called CRISPR to identify genetic mechanisms of resistance to drugs commonly used in the treatment of HER2-positive breast cancer. The outcomes of my research are anticipated to enable identification of genetic mechanisms of treatment resistance, potentially leading to more personalised management of HER2-positive breast cancer,” said Siemens.

Kyla has had the opportunity to present her research at two conferences thus far: the HealtheX conference held at the University of Auckland and the New Zealand Society for Oncology (NZSO) conference (Pictured).

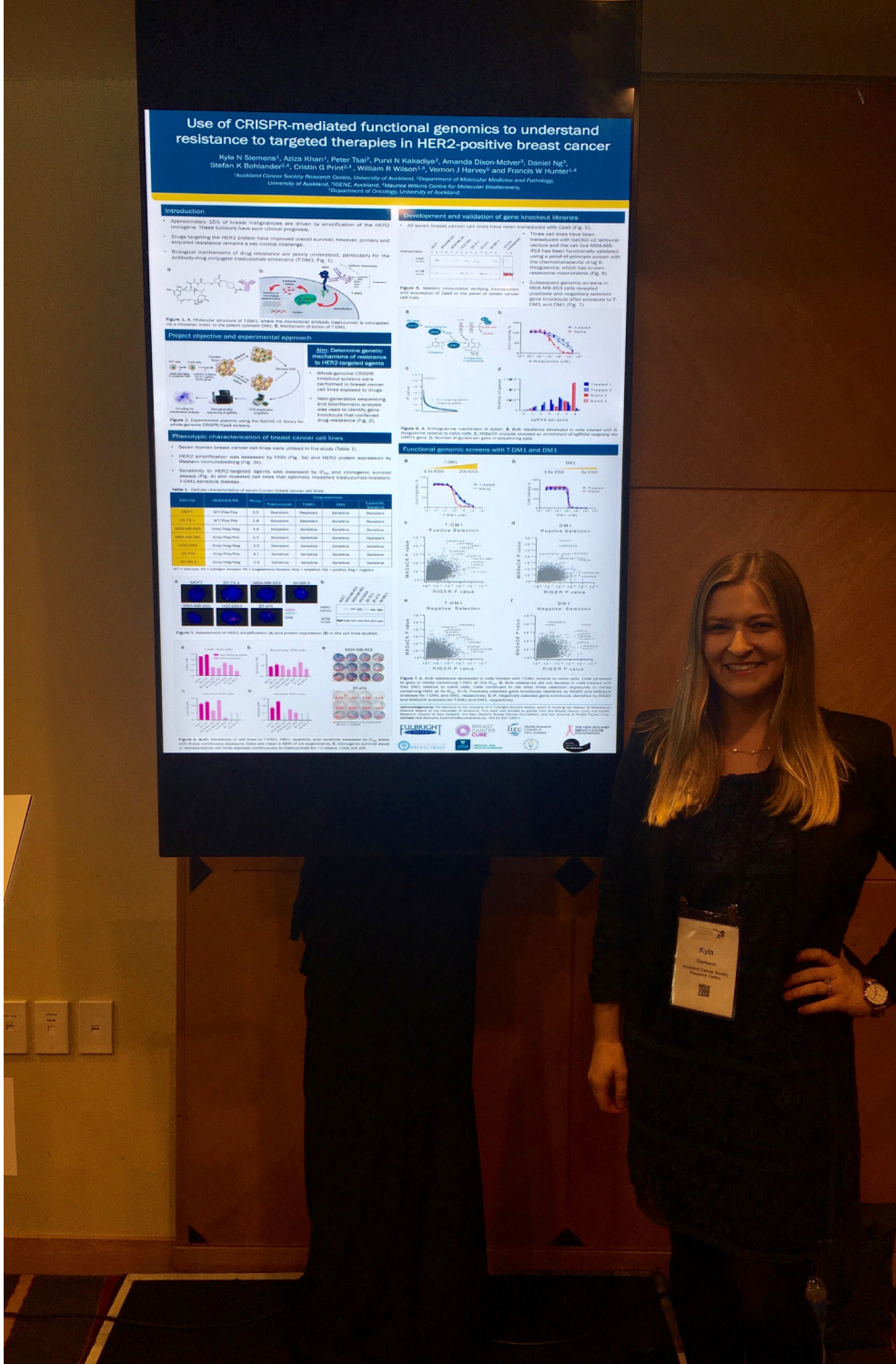
“Presenting a poster at NZSO strengthened my presentation skills and allowed me to connect with leading researchers in the field of oncology,” said Kyla.

She also served on the committee that helped organise the HealtheX conference at the University of Auckland. This conference was designed to enable students to present their research in a familiar environment in preparation for presenting at larger national or international conference settings.

In February 2018, Siemens will head to the Lorne Cancer Conference in Australia to share her findings about breast cancer drug resistance with a specialist cancer research and clinical oncology audience.

“Attending this cancer conference will allow me to receive feedback from key opinion leaders in the field prior to my degree submission and could help foster future collaborative efforts with international laboratories.”

Siemens is not just an emerging leader in genetic and oncology research. During her Fulbright year, she



and her husband have visited many of New Zealand's top destinations. Siemens and fellow Auckland-based grantee Kirsten Koslovsky have done the Auckland marathon (Kirsten did a full and Kyla competed in her first half marathon), hiked Queenstown hill at sunrise and did the Tongariro Alpine Crossing together. The pair also went to an All Blacks game together.

Siemens plans to finish her work in New Zealand in early 2018.



KYLA SIEMENS PRESENTS AT THE NZSO CONFERENCE. ALL PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED BY KYLA SIEMENS.

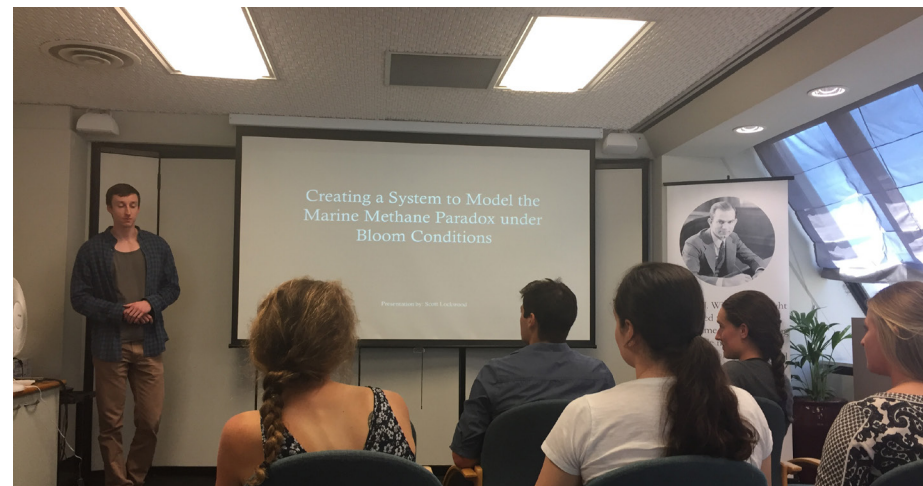
AROUND THE OFFICE: END OF YEAR PROGRAMME

The Fulbright New Zealand team has been busy with scholar selections, placement, IIE changes, and our annual End of Year Programme for US Graduates.

With only a few weeks left in 2017, it's a great time to look back and reflect on the past year with our Fulbrighters. Every year, the cohort of graduate grantees from the US attend three programmes: an Orientation in February, a Mid-year Programme in June (*joined by NZ graduates and the all-grantee award ceremony*) and the End of Year Programme around Thanksgiving.

We hosted the End of Year Programme on 23 and 24 November at the Fulbright offices in Wellington. All of the grantees presented on both their research and Fulbright experience in a final report back - it was truly inspiring to hear about their work and see their journey come full circle. We enjoyed Thanksgiving dinner hosted by the Ambassador on Thursday afternoon. On Friday the team came together for a final reflection and lunch together before a bittersweet send off.

In addition to hosting the End of Year Programme, programme managers Lauren Parsons oversaw a successful selection process for the NZ Scholar Award, and Kyla Orr worked with Harkness on their 2017-18 selection. Pip Climo and the team are working with IIE as they transition to a new online application platform and an internal restructure. It is always busy in our office, but we welcome visits for morning tea anytime! We are really look



STAY CONNECTED

WE ARE ALWAYS LOOKING FOR WAYS TO SUPPORT AND CONNECT WITH OUR ALUMNI. HERE ARE A FEW WAYS TO KEEP IN TOUCH WITH FULBRIGHT NEW ZEALAND:

SHARE YOUR STORY

Have a Fulbright experience or favourite story you would like to tell? We are collecting stories to feature as part of our 70th anniversary. Email ideas to rachel@fulbright.org.nz

UPDATE US ON YOUR NEWS

We love to let others know when you publish research, present at a conference, are featured in the news, or other successes! No tall poppies - help us share your work. Email rachel@fulbright.org.nz

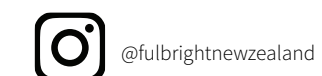
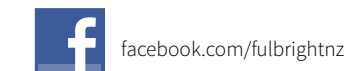
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SAVE THE DATE: 14 SEPTEMBER 2018

There will be many ways to celebrate our 70th birthday across the globe on 14 September - watch this space!

TOP: THANKSGIVING WITH AMBASSADOR BROWN AND EMBASSY STAFF. | MIDDLE: SCOTT LOCKWORD PRESENTS DURING THE END OF YEAR REPORT BACKS. | BOTTOM: FULBRIGHT BOARD MEMBER DAVID PATTERSON GETS A KICK OUT OF PLAYING KISS'S DRUMSET AT THE AMBASSADOR'S RESIDENCE AFTER THANKSGIVING DINNER.

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.

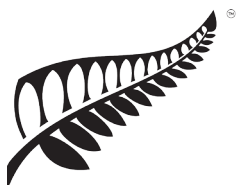
AWARD TYPE

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 US Teachers
Fulbright-Creative New Zealand Pacific Writers' Residency
Fulbright Distinguished Awards in Teaching Programme for NZ Teachers
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 & 1 April annually
1 August annually
1 October annually
1 October annually
11 October annually
14 October annually
14 October annually
1 December annually
1 March annually
15 March annually
1 April annually
25 July annually
By appointment only

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