



United States Department of State

*Bureau of Educational and
Cultural Affairs*

Washington, D.C. 20547

www.state.gov

July 9, 2008

Dear Fulbright Students and Scholars:

Welcome to Washington and welcome to the Fulbright community. The U.S. Department of State has had the honor of being the home to the Fulbright Program – the United States’ flagship program for international scholarly exchange - for more than sixty years. You join a distinguished company of more than 285,000 Fulbright alumni.

Fulbright is a bi-national undertaking. It is meant to be a partnership between the United States and governments around the world. And, while the Fulbright Program’s features vary somewhat from country to country, its guiding principles, enshrined in the Fulbright Hays Act of 1961, are universal: The program exists to promote mutual understanding between the people of the United States and the peoples of other countries. It is not, then, merely a scholarship or a fellowship: It is conceived as an exchange, by which *through* scholarship, through studying, conducting research, and breaking bread together, Americans and their counterparts abroad come to respect and understand one another, as individuals and as carriers of their own national values. American Fulbrighters are also cultural ambassadors to the countries in which they work. Enhancements such as seminars, opportunities for volunteer work, and invitations to coach and orient host country Fulbright candidates are central to the Fulbright experience.

My colleagues at the State Department, at the J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board, in the U.S. Embassies and Fulbright Commissions abroad, and at the private cooperating agencies that help to administer your awards join me in extending to you our very best wishes for the year ahead. May your Fulbright experience bring you fulfillment and enrich your lives for many years to come.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Thomas A. Farrell". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being the most prominent.

Thomas A. Farrell
Deputy Assistant Secretary
for Academic Programs