

in this issue



Welcome from the
Public Affairs Officer



Alumni Have Their Say



Featured Alumni



Opportunities

Alumni **connex**

THE NEWSLETTER FOR U.S.- S.A. EXCHANGE ALUMNI

■ issue 1 ■ november 2011

Welcome Message from the Public Affairs Officer



Dear friend,

The philosopher Saint Augustine of Hippo Regius (now Annaba in Algeria) once said, "The world is a book and those who do not travel read only one page." Every alumnus of a U.S. exchange program like yours has read many pages.

I consider myself very blessed to have had an opportunity to meet so many well-read and well-traveled exchange alumni in the 14 months I've lived in South Africa, and I hope to meet everyone soon. Each of you has accomplished many remarkable things, both before and since your experience in the United States, and have much to share.

Unfortunately, in spite of good intentions, we have fallen out of touch with many of you over the years. We want to change that. This newsletter represents our effort to reconnect with you and discuss ways we can work together on our common goals in the future.

To demonstrate our renewed commitment to you, we have recently appointed an Alumni Coordinator, Jacques Wiese, who is based at the U.S. Consulate General in Johannesburg and is responsible for coordinating alumni activities throughout South Africa. This letter is our first step in an alumni outreach effort that we hope will renew our collaboration in many areas.

For example, we would love to receive your suggestions for people who might be good candidates for exchanges similar to those you experienced, or you could volunteer to serve on a selection panel for future grantees. If you enjoy public speaking, we'd like to set up opportunities to share your U.S. experiences locally, or if you are at a school or institution that would like

a speaker to visit, we can work with you to make it happen. Likewise, we welcome alumni-written material for this newsletter and our Embassy social media sites and website.

If you would like to be part of these initiatives, the first step is to update or register on the State Alumni website:

<https://alumni.state.gov>

It is a secure website, with password protection, so the only people who can access it are your (fascinating) fellow alumni. Should you have any questions or need more information, please contact Jacques (email: wiesej@state.gov; telephone: 27 11 290 3081).

We look forward to hearing from you soon!

Sincerely,

Karl Stoltz
Country Public Affairs Officer
U.S. Embassy - Pretoria
stoltzke@state.gov



The State Alumni Website

Once you explored a country...
now explore the globe!

JOIN STATE ALUMNI

You are invited to join STATE ALUMNI, a prestigious, web-based community for alumni of all U.S. government exchange programs.

- Network with alumni from Fulbright, IVLP and other programs
- Find grant and funding opportunities worth more than \$33 billion
- Access more than 20,000 free periodicals, newspapers and more
- Find the latest research in your field, plus jobs and career resources
- Participate in Q&A Live discussions with experts
- Share your experience with a global audience
- Read alumni success stories, perspectives and ideas
- Stay involved through a local alumni association

To Join:

Go to alumni.state.gov | Click on "Join Now" | Follow prompts on screen to set up your account | Passwords must include 3 of 4 types of characters: upper case, lower case, numbers, or symbols | Include correct program information (program type and dates) | Enter your name as it appears on your passport | Once the information is entered, click "submit" at the bottom of the screen

ALUMNI.STATE.GOV
YOUR GLOBAL COMMUNITY

State Alumni is a password-protected, secure website.
All members must register and be verified to access the full site.

webmaster@alumni.state.gov



U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs

Alumni Say

Lithemba Velleman



Senior Associate in the Banking and Finance Department at Bowman Gilfillan

Fulbright Student - 2008

The U.S. has taught me that the American dream can just as easily be a South African dream, and not just for myself, but for all South Africans. America has taught me that it is possible to overcome our differences brought upon by diverse cultural backgrounds and racial disharmony. I always say that the U.S. and South Africa are surprisingly similar in terms of economic structures (both capitalist), racial, ethnic and cultural diversity of the population and the respect of principles of equality and human dignity; only that South Africa is a much younger version of the U.S. The time I spent in the U.S. has showed me that we, as South Africa, are not a bridge too far from reaching the ideals which the U.S. itself strives to achieve, and to know that is invaluable in motivating us to try and make this country a better one for all. I have been privileged to get this lesson first-hand.

continued on page 3



Alumni Say

Jeremy Maggs



Co-host News Night on the eNews channel; Editor The Journal of Marketing, The Annual and Presenter of TV show Maggs on Media

International Visitor Leadership Program (Communications) - 1991

My three week long exchange programme, back when my hair was blacker and my girth narrower, was an intense focus on talk radio in the U.S. when it was still a fledgling format in South Africa.

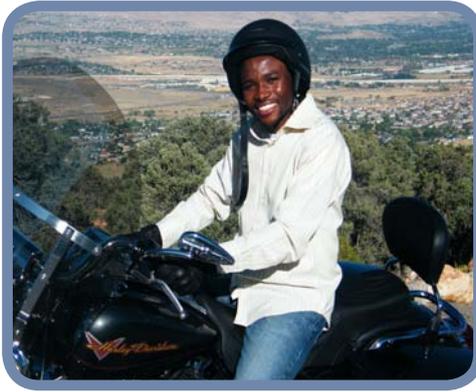
My party visited radio stations from DC to Seattle and engaged thoroughly with hosts and producers in both the commercial and public broadcasting sector.

I'm not going to use worn phrases like "eye-opening;" suffice it to say, the lessons learnt during that sojourn significantly informed my philosophy and technique as a radio presenter for the next decade at least.

The days were long, the notes voluminous and the contacts invaluable.



Cornelius Xulu



Church Minister and Community Developer

International Visitor Leadership Program (NGO Management/ Development) - 2011

The IVLP cultural program was a great learning experience. I have since decided to study because almost everyone I met who ran a successful program valued personal growth. My perspective was broadened on what organizations can achieve when they seek partnerships within their communities as well as on a national scale. I am convinced that our work is relevant and with strong leadership we can grow from just relevant to high impact.

Charmaine du Plessis



Senior Manager: Corporate Communication at the University of Johannesburg

International Visitor Leadership Program (Education) - 2010

I am very proud to have been selected to participate in the IVLP, and because

of the international experience and the enormous amount of knowledge I gained during this visit, it prompted me to pursue my dream of furthering my studies. I am currently enrolled with the University of Johannesburg for a master's degree in strategic communication and transformation, which I will complete in July 2012.

Although the issues in U.S. might differ from ours in S.A., I do believe that there are similarities and the way in which the U.S. addresses issues of diversity and minority groups can definitely provide me with examples of best practices. Continuing to network with exemplary institutions in U.S. will allow me to implement some of the practices in S.A., to improve and enhance cultural integration and diversity.

Jonathan Shapiro aka Zapiro



Cartoonist

Fulbright Student - 1988 to 1989

I benefited enormously from studying under some of the world's great cartoonists. Superb classes in drawing, comics and media enhanced my ability to communicate as an editorial cartoonist. Apart from the expertise I gained, this period in my life was the most enjoyable and frenetic I've experienced, studying in my favourite city and taking in art, music and theatre at every opportunity. My wife Karina and I were married shortly after our arrival in New York. We were able to travel widely in the U.S. and made close friends, many of whom we're still in contact with.

Unathi Malunga



Entertainment Lawyer, Creative Industries Consultant and Managing Member of Creative Code

Fulbright Student - 2000

Having the privilege of being on the Fulbright Scholarship completely changed my life in a manner I never imagined it would.

Firstly, it was the first time I got to travel overseas; and secondly, the Fulbright gave me the opportunity to study an area of law I was unable to study in South Africa at that time- Entertainment Law. I studied at UCLA-based in Los Angeles-the heart of entertainment in the United States. There I drew and soaked in all the environment had to offer.

Since I returned I have been involved in a number of international coproduction films, such as Blood Diamonds, done the legal work for a number of international music concerts, such as Live Earth and the 46664 Concert as well as major sports events, such as the 2010 FIFA World Cup Opening and Closing Ceremonies. I continue to work in this field in South Africa and am now also involved in the educational aspect of Entertainment Law, providing workshops to people who work in the creative industries, so they are able to better forge a life for themselves based on a sustainable business. I would never have had the opportunity to even study this field had it not been for the Fulbright Scholarship and the Fulbright team who saw my potential and pushed me to see a clearer vision of what I could become.

Travelling into a foreign land, on your own and for the first time, can be frightening, but the support I received from the Fulbright team and IIE was phenomenal. In addition, meeting all the other South African and foreign Fulbrighters enables you to have a further support structure on your adventure! Thank you so much to the Fulbright organization!

That is why I continue to happily assist the organization in any way I can. I know, firsthand, what a life-changing opportunity it offers to young South Africans.

Nonkululeko Godana



Digital Content Manager and Digital Literacy Workshop Facilitator

International Visitor Leadership Program (NGO Management / Development) - 2011

“The best social service program in the world is a job!” Louis King, founder of HIRE Minnesota and Summit Academy.

After about 30 meetings in 4 states of the U.S., the above words found a place that resonates very well with our situation in South Africa. A month later some South African youth took to the streets to march for ‘economic freedom’. On the ground, I am more encouraged than ever to work towards the goal of empowering African youth to be better equipped for the workplace with digital skills and literacy by Mr King, whose organization advocates for jobs by training individuals and asserting their rights to employment. Another

organization, Genesys Works, has an interesting model where youth are trained to be placed in internship positions in the IT industry. The game plan has taken a better shape since my return and I will keep this community informed of progress made... The revolution will not be televised, but it may be digitized :)

Events

Youth Leaders Re-unite

The weekend of 23 - 25 September saw all twenty alumni of the Youth Leadership Program from all over South Africa gather in Johannesburg. They were joined by the four chaperones that accompanied them on their various exchanges to the United States, as well as two facilitators from Critical Mass Leadership (Bold Leaders) from Denver, Colorado. The purpose of this exciting weekend was to look at ways of reconnecting the alumni as well as to plan for future alumni projects. One such project is the Robben Island community project, which the alumni intend to start executing in December 2011.



Share your news, stories, projects and thoughts with us. Please e-mail Jacques at WieseJ@state.gov

Spotlight on Musical Alumni

Fulbright Pianist Mentors Young Musical Talent From the Cape Flats



Franklin Larey is hailed as one of South Africa's leading pianists and acclaimed for his performances of works by Brahms, Mozart, Scriabin and Ravel. A Fulbright Scholarship took him to the University of Cincinnati, where he received his doctorate in 1996. Franklin returned to South Africa the following year to teach piano at the University of Cape Town and has since achieved a distinguished teaching and performing career.

Since 2003, Larey has been teaching and mentoring a young man from the dusty townships of the Cape Flats, 19 year-old Eben Wagenstroom. A first year B.Mus student at UCT's South African College of Music, Eben became the winner of this years' 2011 Artscape/Yaltah Menuhin Award and also the Overall Winner of the Artscape Competition with a total prize package of R30 000.

"I would like to complete my degree in Music Composition and then pursue postgraduate studies in the United States," Wagenstroom told a local newspaper after his big win at Artscape. "It is probably too early to say, but I hope to go to the Manhattan School of Music, Cincinnati University or the Mannes New School of Music in New York."

Eben has also won numerous prizes and awards at several competitions, examinations and eisteddfods. In 2007 he made his debut with the Cape Philharmonic Orchestra and attended the Adamant Music School (USA) in 2008 and 2009 on a full scholarship where he performed in numerous concerts. In 2010 Eben performed with Larey at Carnegie Hall in New York City in an anniversary concert of the Adamant Music School, where Larey currently serves as Director of the Summer Sessions.

Eben may follow in his mentor's footsteps and Larey has great hopes for this young protégé. "He is truly a remarkable young pianist, and without question the most talented I have ever taught. In a nutshell, he is amazing, and feels to me like my own son," Larey remarked proudly.

Franklin Larey was also awarded a prestigious Fulbright Researcher Award in 2003 and spent six months in residence at his alma mater, the University of Cincinnati. During this time he performed at the Kennedy Center's Millennium Stage in Washington DC, as an invited Fulbright artist.

He has received several honours for his work as a concert pianist, and for his contribution to music in South Africa. In 2003 the University of Cincinnati's College-Conservatory of Music honoured him with its Distinguished Alumnus Award. In South Africa, he has served on the National Arts Council, a documentary of his career was aired on satellite television, and he was featured in South Africa's Human Sciences Research Council's published series, Living Treasures.

Reflecting on his career, Larey said, "All this would never have been possible without the Fulbright Grants. I am forever grateful."

Ph.D. a High Note in Fulbright Soprano Bronwen Forbay's Career



She has performed for heads of state, including Queen Elizabeth the Second and Nelson Mandela, and has commanded stages in the U.S. and London. Now, coloratura soprano Bronwen Forbay

has added another achievement to her extensive list – a musical arts Ph.D. in vocal performance from a prestigious musical institution in Cincinnati in the United States. She will be one of only two South Africans to have a Doctor of Musical Arts in Voice Performance.

Speaking from her mother's home in the Wentworth township, south of Durban, former Fulbright student Forbay told us how excited she was to graduate from the College-Conservatory of Music, University of Cincinnati. Forbay graduated in absentia, however, as she was on tour in South Africa.

Back home, she has dazzled musical critics with her performance in the lead role of "Violetta" in the Cape Town Opera production of La Traviata. This was Forbay's first time in the demanding role. She appeared with a stellar cast of South African singers, some based in South Africa and some pursuing careers overseas.

Forbay told a local newspaper that La Traviata rehearsals were quite a process, starting with getting the music right, then incorporating moving around and looking natural, even when the cast bursts into song.

Forbay is next scheduled to travel to Italy and then to Texas to join her husband, tenor and fellow academic Randall Umstead.

Next year she'll audition for further roles in the United States, then travel to Paris, France, and Antwerp, Belgium, for recitals with U.S. colleagues. She is scheduled to return to South Africa for a recital tour in July 2012.

Forbay was awarded a Fulbright scholarship in 2000, enabling her to complete a Master of Music degree at the Manhattan School of Music. She subsequently taught for two years at the University of KwaZulu Natal's Opera School, Durban campus.

Opportunities

Exchange Program Opportunities

Fulbright Distinguished Awards in Teaching Program - Deadline: December 15, 2011

The Distinguished Awards in Teaching Program is for full-time K-12 teachers, curriculum specialists, and teacher-trainers with at least five years of teaching experience. The program places South African teachers at a U.S. host institution for a semester for three to six months. Participants will pursue an individual action-based research project and take courses for professional development at the host institution. Participants will also lead master classes and seminars at American primary and secondary schools. Upon return, participants are expected to share knowledge gained on the program at their home schools and communities. For more information, please contact Tenimba Morgan at morgants@state.gov or visit our website at http://southafrica.usembassy.gov/fulbright_teacher-exchange.html.

Fulbright South African Senior Scholar Program - Deadline: November 30, 2011

The Fulbright South African Senior Scholar Program provides the opportunity for South African scholars to lecture and conduct research at a U.S. academic institution. South African scholars will be able to establish professional contacts in their field with colleagues in the United States. Participants will develop collaborative research relationships with U.S. scholars and produce scholarly publications, with contributions from research conducted in the United States. The program is open to South African scholars or permanent residents who have a doctoral degree or equivalent professional experience. Grants are awarded for a period of three to ten months. For more information, please contact Mareka Chabedi at chabedimm@state.gov or visit our website at <http://southafrica.usembassy.gov/postdoctoral.html>.

Fulbright Foreign Student Program - Deadline: April 2012

The Fulbright Foreign Student Program offers grants to pursue academic courses, for credit, at post-graduate level, or to engage in research or projects supervised by an approved institution, or to do coursework for non-degree purposes. For more information, please contact Mareka Chabedi at chabedimm@state.gov or visit our website at <http://southafrica.usembassy.gov/postgraduate.html>



JOB OPPORTUNITY EDUCATIONAL ADVISER

The U.S. Consulate General in Johannesburg seeks an Educational Adviser in the Public Affairs Section. Applicants must meet ALL of the following requirements:

- Undergraduate degree in education, language, international affairs, information science, social sciences, humanities, business or a related field.
- Two years progressively responsible work experience in advising international students or professionals or working in university administration.
- Sound knowledge of the U.S. and S.A. education systems and detailed knowledge of secondary and tertiary education systems and processes are required.
- English Level IV (Fluent) writing/reading/speaking (this will be tested).
- Successful candidate must have excellent public speaking abilities and be able to write in a clear concise manner (this will be tested).
- Must be proficient in the use of Microsoft Basic Excel and Basic Word 2007 Suite (this will be tested).

Applications must be received by **November 25, 2011**.

For more details on this exciting opportunity, including salary and benefits, please go to: http://southafrica.usembassy.gov/job_opportunities.html or go directly to the PNet site to apply at: <http://americanembassy.pnet.co.za/>

Upcoming Event

Community College Alumni Event

Alumni from the Community College Initiative Program will meet in Johannesburg during December 2011. Topics of discussion will include career development, community service, volunteerism and the exchange experience. More about this event in the next issue of Alumni Connex.

Share your news, stories, projects and thoughts with us. Please e-mail Jacques at WieseJ@state.gov