

WINTER NEWSLETTER 2008



"The Fulbright Program aims to bring a little more knowledge, a little more reason, and a little more compassion into world affairs, and thereby to increase the chance that nations will learn at last to live in peace and friendship." - J. William Fulbright

IIE West Coast Center (IIE WCC) Fulbright Student Programs 2008-2009:

In 1945, Senator J. William Fulbright introduced a bill in the United States Congress calling for the sale of surplus war supplies to fund the "promotion of international educational good will through the exchange of students in the fields of education, culture, and science." On August 1, 1946, President Harry S. Truman signed the bill into law, and Congress created the Fulbright Program. In six decades, close to 300,000 students and young professionals from 185 countries worldwide, have benefited from the Fulbright Program. The U.S. Student Program currently awards approximately 1,500 grants annually in all fields of study.

Most people have heard of the Fulbright Program, but few know that IIE has managed the program on behalf of the U.S Government since its inception. If you visit IIE West Coast Center any day in the first half of December, you will find a Fulbright screening committee in session. Each screening committee brings together distinguished professors in various fields who participate in the nomination of U.S. awards for study, teaching, or research grants in other countries.

The IIE WCC staff also supervises the grants of more than 500 foreign Fulbright students on the West Coast (Alaska, Washington, Oregon, California, Hawaii, Nevada, Idaho). Of these grantees, 244 are Master's students, 178 are Ph.D. candidates, and 65 are pre-doctoral visiting researchers. The University of California Berkeley hosts the greatest number of West Coast Fulbrighters (77) followed by Stanford University (43), the University of California, Los Angeles (35), the University of California, Davis (27) and the University of Washington (27). West Coast Fulbrighters come from 80 countries with Germany heading the list (72 students), followed by Brazil (33), Chile (33), Russia (24) and Italy (18).

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Many thanks. We would like to express our gratitude for your support of IIE WCC. Your involvement is part of what allows IIE to continue its important work in international education, leadership development and citizen diplomacy. Please consider making a year-end contribution to IIE WCC. We also encourage you to talk about the work of our organization to family members, friends and colleagues.

Donation Form

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A conversation with Craig Barrett, Chairman of Intel and 1972 Fulbright Fellow to Denmark

Craig Barrett has had an impressive career at Intel. He joined the corporation in 1974 and became its CEO in 1998. As of May 2005 he is the Chairman of Intel. In 2001 he was honored by IIE WCC for his outstanding contribution to business and for his lifelong commitment to education. Craig Barrett has shared his insights on the role that education, studying abroad and extensive traveling have played in his life with Grazia Bennett, IIE WCC Development Director.

In 2007 you were awarded the prestigious Horatio Alger Award, given to those who have overcome adversity and humble beginnings to achieve great professional success. How did you do it?

My father, who died at an early age, was a chemist and knew the value of a good education. He instilled a desire in his children to get the best possible education as a way to succeed in life. Although my family had limited financial resources I was able to get a scholarship to Stanford University and a part-time job in one of its research laboratories to help finance my education. The education at Stanford was the door opener for other opportunities - first a NATO Post Doctoral Fellowship to England, then a teaching job at Stanford, then the Fulbright Fellowship and finally a long career at Intel. Without the quality education at Stanford I'm sure my career would have been much more limited.

In 1972 you went to the Technical University of Denmark as a Fulbright Fellow. How has this experience influenced your life?

The Fulbright Fellowship to Denmark was a real opportunity for growth, both personal and professional. First they were doing strong research at the Technical University and I was able to interact with some outstanding scientists - Rod Cotterill, one of the early drivers of atomistic computer simulation, was a great example. But perhaps more importantly, I was able to view the United States, our political and scientific education systems, and our attitudes to the rest of the world from an entirely different perspective. The Fulbright Fellowship and the earlier NATO Post Doc Fellowship both allowed me to understand the size and complexity of the world and led to a later interest in how technology could influence the lives of people in emerging economies. Without first hand international experience I would have had far less appreciation for what goes on in the rest of the world and what role US citizens can play in making the world a better place.

Education and in particular higher education have been and are very dear to your heart. Please share a word of advice with American college students based on your life experience.

Education is the door opener for the rest of your life. A good education does not ensure success, but it gives you the opportunity to succeed. I like to tell young people that there are only two things that no one can ever take away from you in life. Those two things are your education and your personal integrity. You should value both and always strive

to improve upon them. Without both it is hard to have a successful career. And without both it is difficult to have real hope and opportunity for the future.

Some people think that each college student should have a computer and a passport. Do you agree?

Not just each college student, but each businessman, each politician, and ultimately each citizen. The computer and the Internet give you access to the world's body of information and it is hard to succeed these days without knowing what is going on around the world. It is no accident that 'google' has become a verb - today we can access information that would take a lifetime to accumulate when I was growing up. And a passport (especially a passport with a lot of visas) is the key to experiencing the world beyond a computer screen. Actually seeing, feeling, touching, interacting, and experiencing foreign cultures are key to understanding your own. Nothing beats watching people from around the world analyzing your home country's actions and attitudes to give you a deeper understanding of how the world actually works. I can vividly remember being in Europe and watching European reaction to the Vietnam War in the 1960's - the experience demonstrated to me that the US was just one participant in a much larger world - not the main participant. Everyone should have the opportunity to see how others view themselves - the world would be a much better place.

I read that you visit over 25 countries per year. Is there an anecdote that you can share with us that reflects how the world is evolving?

Much of the world recognizes that the future of any country, or any economy, or any culture depends on education. Governments around the world are working to provide their young people with educational opportunity - this is important not only for economic growth, but also for political stability. The hot spots of the world today are typically areas where young people have been deprived of educational opportunity and have neither hope nor the skills for employment that give them opportunity for the future. Only by giving all young people hope and opportunity can we hope to bring peace to the world - and education is the key here.

Can you name one person you have met in your studies/work overseas who has had a great influence on the way you look at the world?

I don't think there is just one person who stands out - I have literally met hundreds of people who work night and day to give opportunity to young people. Teachers, health care workers, and parents all represent what can be positive about the future. Whether it is a teacher or community center leader in Brazil or South Africa or Egypt - they all know what the future holds - education is the key enabler - and even if you provide clean water, housing and food to individuals, unless you also give them the tools to contribute back to society, you won't create a stable system. Every child should have equal opportunity to be a productive member of society - and that only happens if every child has an opportunity to get a good education.