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Article published Jun 10, 2007
FSU, FAMU boast 10 Fulbrights
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Tallahassee universities produced 10 Fulbright participants this year.

Florida A&M University has one Fulbright scholar and, for the first time ever, Florida State University has nine Fulbright scholars.

The Fulbright Program, named after former Sen. J. William Fulbright, is the largest international-exchange program in the United States and is sponsored by the U.S. Department of State. Established in 1946, the Fulbright Program aims to foster international goodwill through increased mutual understanding between the people of the United States and those of other countries.

Participants will study, conduct research and teach English overseas next year in a variety of countries.

Fulbright scholar and FAMU grad Misha Granado, who is from the Caribbean and whose family has a history of breast cancer, hopes to develop a strategy to increase early detection of breast cancer among Caribbean women while conducting research in Barbados.

"I will identify the similarities or differences among perceived barriers to breast-cancer detection, thus possibly indicating that culture rather than race is a better determinant of behavior," Granado said. "My goal is to become a leader in the field and to develop and implement interventions to close the health-disparity gap."

"We are very excited about Misha's accomplishment and the wonderful experience she will gain in utilizing her research tools," said Cynthia Harris, professor and director of the Institute of Public Health. "It certainly bodes well for the Institute and FAMU, in general, regarding the outstanding caliber of students and the high quality of public-health training received."

With help from Florida State University's Office of National Fellowships, nine FSU students and alumni have received the prestigious Fulbright Award - the most in a single year for the university.

This year's tally of Fulbright recipients tops FSU's 2006 record of eight, according to Jamie Purcell, director of the Office of National Fellowships. "These remarkable students are a living memorial to the legacy of Sen. Fulbright and his commitment to peace and cross-cultural understanding."

The award winners at FSU are Natalie Binder, Dan Carlson, Jamal Grimes, Megan Hewitt, Katie Hodges, Anna Philp, Matt Phipps, Natasha Rocas and Nathan Timpano.

Steve Uhlfelder, a Tallahassee attorney and former member of the FSU Board of Trustees who also chairs the J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board, called the nine Fulbrights "an amazing feat. Very few universities have this many Fulbright recipients in a single year."

Fulbright recipients

Misha Granado of Trinidad earned a master's degree in public health and community psychology from FAMU. Granado will spend nine months in Barbados, West Indies, investigating barriers in breast cancer screening practices in women and examining ways to promote cross-cultural interaction between Barbadian and American health care providers, researchers and academicians.

Natalie Binder of Monticello earned a bachelor's degree in political science and interdisciplinary social sciences from FSU in December 2006. With her English Teaching Assistantship, she plans to travel to Indonesia, where she hopes "to improve relations between America and the Islamic world by teaching English." Binder was selected for a special diplomatic placement at a boarding school for Islamic girls in East Java.

Dan Carlson from St. Petersburg earned a master's degree in physical oceanography from FSU in April and will conduct research in Israel on the Gulf of Eilat, a narrow arm of the Red Sea.

Jamal Grimes of Ormond Beach, who earned a bachelor's degree in risk management insurance with an emphasis in finance in April, has received an English Teaching Assistantship, which will give him the opportunity to teach high-school students in South Korea.

Megan Hewitt of St. Petersburg earned a bachelor's degree with honors in December 2006 and graduated with a double major in anthropology and religion. With an English Teaching Assistantship, she plans to teach high-school students in Indonesia.

Katie Hodges of Winter Park also received an English Teaching Assistantship, which will enable her to teach in Taiwan for 11 months. Hodges earned a bachelor's degree in elementary education from FSU in April.

Anna Philp of Miami graduated from FSU in December 2006 with a bachelor's degree in international affairs. She has received a French Government English Teaching Assistantship; along with teaching English, she will pursue additional French language study and also study French immigration and history while in France.

Matt Phipps of Venice will graduate with honors from FSU in August, having double-majored in creative writing and Spanish. With his English Teaching Assistantship, he will teach students in Chile. He will also "conduct research on the Chilean cueca" - an Andean musical genre - "its roots and influences, and its presence in contemporary Chilean music."

Natasha Rocas just earned a bachelor's degree in English from FSU, having studied both literature and creative writing. With her English Teaching Assistantship, she will travel to Turkey. She "will engage in Turkish culture while investigating my own American-Mediterranean heritage. I will then complete a book of poems that explores Levantine culture/identity."

Nathan Timpano, a native of Lewiston, Mont., earned a master's degree in art history from FSU in December 2006 and is currently working on his doctorate. He received a Fulbright full grant, which will enable him to conduct research for his dissertation in Austria "on the use of expressive theatrical body gestures in Viennese Secessionist paintings."
