

Two Stockton Graduates Earn Fulbright Awards

Prestigious Academic Awards Will Take Them to Posts in Cyprus, Malaysia

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Galloway Township, NJ - Two new graduates of Stockton University have earned grants from the Fulbright U.S. Student Program, one of the academic world's most prestigious awards, to teach English abroad in the coming year.

Ciara Barrick of Ocean City, NJ, who graduated May 9 with a B.A. in Literature, having also minored in Ancient Greek, has received an English Teaching Assistantship for an academic year in Cyprus. Barrick will work as a cultural ambassador to enhance relations between Cyprus and America. In addition to her teaching assistantship, she has been offered an internship at the Cyprus Literary Journal, "Cadences."

Kaidesha Pinkney of East Windsor, NJ, who earned her B.A. in Economics, was awarded an English Teaching Assistantship for an academic year in Malaysia. Pinkney will leave for Malaysia in January 2016 and will be there for 10 months to teach English conversation and grammar as a teaching assistant.

Both teaching assistants will be assigned to teach in a grade in a K-12 school which has not yet been determined.

Barrick worked as a tutor in Stockton's Writing Center, which she credits for preparing her to teach students of various levels and nationalities.

"My experiences here at Stockton University, particularly those under the guidance of Dr. David Roessel (professor of Greek Language and Literature), prepared me for the Fulbright," she said. "I have been so fortunate to have had a number of travel abroad experiences, including Greece and Cyprus in November of 2013. My experiences within the Literature program, as well as the opportunity to take Ancient Greek lessons, have been unparalleled."

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Barrick chose to apply for a Fulbright in Cyprus because she was fascinated by the “cultural footprint” caused by the divide between the Greek-administered South and the Turkish-administered North, which she experienced on her first visit there.

During the Fulbright program, she most looks forward to integrating herself into another culture and gaining greater knowledge of Cypriot art and literature.

Barrick loves teaching, but said she could be interested in working at a journal, magazine, or doing museum work in the future.

“I’m not ready for graduate school,” she said. “When you apply to a Ph.D. program, you sort of need to have a project in mind. Right now, I have so many interests that I want to explore, and that is what I hope to do during this Fulbright experience.”

Pinkney said she applied for the Fulbright program because she is interested in international economic development.

“I chose Malaysia because it has an interesting mix of culture there,” Pinkney said. She said she saw it as a “great opportunity to extend my learning here as a student.”

During the Fulbright program, Pinkney is hoping to help the students learn about American culture and learn about their culture as well. While in Malaysia, Pinkney also plans to volunteer at a health clinic or do research related to health care.

During her last semester at Stockton, she interned with United Way Worldwide through Stockton’s Washington Internship Program. As a health research intern, she helped to increase healthy food access for children in an afterschool program.

In 2013, during the summer going into her junior year, Pinkney studied abroad in Brazil. She has also traveled to Spain, Portugal, Mexico, Canada, and the Caribbean Islands.

As an undergraduate at Stockton, she was also involved in research with Dr. Matthew Bonnan, associate professor of Biology, and Dr. Benjamin Ellis, assistant professor of Chemistry.

After the Fulbright program, she plans to go to medical school to pursue her MD, PhD or MD-MPH. She plans to combine her interests in international development and health care.

“I see myself working in health care settings to reduce health inequalities,” Pinkney said. “I’ve always known that I wanted to pursue medicine since high school,” she said.

The Fulbright Program is the flagship international educational exchange program sponsored by the U.S. government and is designed to increase mutual understanding between the people of the United States and the people of other countries.

Sponsored by the United States Department of State’s Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, the Fulbright Program was founded by the late U.S. Sen. J. William Fulbright in 1946 and now operates in over 150 countries. The program has provided funding for approximately 360,000 students, scholars, teachers, and professionals for graduate study, advanced research, university teaching, and teaching in elementary and secondary schools. The Fulbright U.S. Student Program is administered by the Institute of International Education.

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Dr. Roessel, Dr. Mary Lou Galantino, professor of Physical Therapy, and Dr. Joseph Lema, associate professor of Hospitality and Tourism Management Studies, all previous Fulbright recipients, served on the interview committee at Stockton for the on-campus Student Fulbright application process that led to these awards. The committee was chaired by Dr. Robert Nichols, professor of History, and the Fulbright Program adviser for Stockton. Dr. Nichols has earned four Fulbright awards for his research in Pakistan, India and the United Arab Emirates.

Barbara Fisher, a 2013 Honors Physics graduate of Stockton from Westville, NJ, was awarded a Fulbright in her senior year. Fisher worked as an English teaching assistant in the Czech Republic during the 2013-14 academic year.

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