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Top Honors: Seniors Earn Fulbrights

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Top honors

Seniors earn Fulbrights



When Brett Tolman '10 was young, his grandfather gave him some advice: "Very few of us will be called upon to do great things, but every one of us has the capacity to do something small greatly."

Tolman has taken that to heart and this fall he and three other 2010 Linfield graduates will head across the globe to teach and conduct research as Fulbright scholars. Tolman will head to Sri Lanka, Ashley Bennett to Germany and Krista Foltz and Lily Niland to South America.

"These four are among 20 Linfield College graduating seniors who have been selected for Fulbright grants since 1999," said Deborah Olsen, competitive scholarships advisor.

Bennett will teach English in Mainz, Germany. The economics and German major from Forest Grove will work at a high school geared toward students interested in careers in business and economics. Bennett, who served as president of the Linfield German Club, hopes to broaden her understanding of German culture while sharing her perspective on American culture.

Foltz will conduct math research at the Universidad de Chile in Santiago, Chile, analyzing the effect that stereotypes have on female math students in secondary classrooms. The math and education major from Tigard will administer a survey and conduct interviews to identify behavioral trends that reinforce or discourage negative educational stereotypes, with a goal of helping to address underachievement and gender disparity in mathematics.

Niland will conduct original linguistics research in Peru. She will analyze how Japanese residents in Peru use Spanish and how the two languages intersect. Niland, a Ballard, Wash., native who majored in intercultural communication and minored in Spanish and Japanese, wants to blend her passion for both languages in her research. She will study at a site where people speak both languages.

Tolman, from Gresham, will teach English in Sri Lanka for a year. He hopes to inspire students to think critically about issues such as educational development and environmental protection, and envisions a career working as a community organizer, promoting social and economic policies that place human dignity – starting with the alleviation of poverty – at the forefront.

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 other countries. Recipients of Fulbright grants are selected on the basis of academic or professional achievement, as well as demonstrated leadership potential in their fields. The program operates in more than 155 countries worldwide. 🌱

Students pursue studies in language, sustainability

Two other Linfield students secured prestigious scholarships for the coming year.



David Kellner-Rode '12 is the first Linfield student to receive one of 80 Udall Foundation scholarships in the U.S. The scholarship is given to students who demonstrate a commitment to careers focused on promoting environmental sustainability.

Kellner-Rode, an environmental policy major from Wasilla, Alaska, co-founded the Linfield Bicycle Co-Op, co-created the college sustainability fund and served as president of Greenfield, a Linfield student environmental organization. After graduate study, he would like to help develop environmental policy with a nonprofit organization.



Leah Sedy '11 was selected for a Boren scholarship to study in Kyoto, Japan, at the Center for Japanese Language and Culture at Doshisha University. The international student program offers courses in Japanese language, history, culture and international studies, and Sedy

of North Kitsap, Wash., will study in Japanese. Language majors are required to spend a year studying in the country where their chosen language is spoken. Boren Fellowships support the study of less commonly taught languages.



Graduates who earned Fulbrights are, from left, Ashley Bennett, Lily Niland, Brett Tolman and Krista Foltz.