



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Irene Geisler Receives Fulbright Award

Mrs. Irene E. Geisler of Western Michigan University has been awarded a Fulbright U.S. Student scholarship to Latvia in Modern History, the United States Department of State and the J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board announced recently.

Geisler is one of over 1,500 U.S. citizens who will travel abroad for the 2009-2010 academic year through the Fulbright U.S. Student Program.

The Fulbright Program, America's flagship international educational exchange program, is sponsored by the United States Department of State, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. Since its establishment in 1946 under legislation introduced by the late Senator J. William Fulbright of Arkansas, the Fulbright Program has provided approximately 294,000 people - 111,000 Americans who have studied, taught or researched abroad and 183,000 students, scholars and teachers from other countries who have engaged in similar activities in the United States - with the opportunity to observe each others' political, economic, educational and cultural institutions, to exchange ideas and to embark on joint ventures of importance to the general welfare of the world's inhabitants. The Program operates in over 155 countries worldwide.

Recipients of Fulbright awards are selected on the basis of academic or professional achievement, as well as demonstrated leadership potential in their fields. Among the thousands of prominent Fulbright alumni are: **Muhammad Yunus**, Managing Director and Founder, Grameen Bank, and recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize in 2006; **Javier Solana**, Foreign Policy Chief, European Union; **Ruth Simmons**, President, Brown University; **Craig Barrett**, Chairman of the Board, Intel Corporation; **Shamshad Akhtar**, the first woman to hold the position of Governor, State Bank of Pakistan; **Alejandro Jara**, Deputy Director-General, World Trade Organization; **Raoul Cantero**, Justice, Florida Supreme Court; **Renee Fleming**, soprano; **Gish Jen**, Writer; **Daniel Libeskind**, Architect; **Aneesh Raman**, CNN Middle East Correspondent; and **Sibusiso Sibisi**, President and CEO, Council for Scientific and Industrial Research in South Africa.

Fulbright recipients are among over 40,000 individuals participating in U.S. Department of State exchange programs each year. For more than sixty years, the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs has funded and supported programs that seek to promote mutual understanding and respect between the people of the United States and the people of other countries. The Fulbright U.S. Student Program is administered by the Institute of International Education.

For further information about the Fulbright Program or the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, please visit our website at <http://fulbright.state.gov> or contact James A. Lawrence, Office of Academic Exchange Programs, telephone 202-453-8531, or e-mail fulbright@state.gov