THE J. WILLIAM FULBRIGHT PRIZE
FOR INTERNATIONAL UNDERSTANDING

The Fulbright Prize was established to honor the largest and most significant educational exchange program in history as well as the career and spirit of its creator, the late Senator J. William Fulbright. The Prize recognizes and rewards outstanding contributions towards bringing peoples, cultures, or nations to greater understanding of others. Considered for the Prize are individuals, groups or teams of individuals, and organizations in any part of the world whose contributions to breaking through the barriers that divide humankind are of such significance as to be internationally recognized.

In awarding the Prize, the Fulbright Association and its cooperating associates in the United States and abroad seek to recognize individuals who dedicate their energies to improving international understanding and to encourage new generations to undertake life commitments to international understanding.


FULBRIGHT ASSOCIATION

A private, nonprofit membership organization, the Fulbright Association engages current and former Fulbright exchange participants in lifelong experiences that advance international understanding through service to communities, citizen diplomacy, and dialogue on global issues. Headquartered in Washington, D.C., the Association has 47 chapters throughout the country that annually organize more than 150 educational and cultural programs.

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The Fulbright Prize is supported by a grant from The Coca-Cola Foundation.

Friday, November 21, 2008
U.S. Department of State
23rd Street Entrance (between C and D Streets, N.W.)
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Reception immediately following, 8th Floor Diplomatic Reception Rooms

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Program

Welcome & Remarks
The Honorable Goli Ameri
Assistant Secretary of State for Educational and Cultural Affairs

Remarks
Suzanne E. Siskel
President, Fulbright Association

Tribute to Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu
Kelly Brown Douglas
Professor of Religion & Department Chair, Goucher College

Presentation of Fulbright Prize
Suzanne E. Siskel

Tribute to Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu
Maya Angelou

Presentation of “Africa Rising”
Neville Isdell
Chairman of the Board, The Coca-Cola Company

Fulbright Prize Address
Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu
2008 Laureate

Closing
Suzanne E. Siskel
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Widener University
William Paterson University
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Wingate University
Wright State University

THE J. WILLIAM FULBRIGHT PRIZE
FOR INTERNATIONAL UNDERSTANDING
AWARD CEREMONY

HONORING

Desmond M. Tutu
Archbishop Emeritus of Cape Town

Washington, D.C.
November 21, 2008

A Program of the Fulbright Association
With Support of The Coca-Cola Foundation
Desmond M. Tutu

Desmond Mpilo Tutu was born in Klerksdorp, South Africa, on Oct. 7, 1931. He entered the Anglican ministry in 1958 and received his licentiate in theology in 1960 from St. Peter's Theological College, Johannesburg. He was ordained to the priesthood in 1961 and then earned his bachelor of divinity (with honors) and master of theology degrees from King's College, University of London, England. From 1967 to 1978, he served in increasingly prominent positions in seminaries, universities, and church organizations and was named bishop of Lesotho.

In the wake of the 1976 Soweto uprising, South Africa was in turmoil. Bishop Tutu accepted the post of general secretary of the South African Council of Churches (SACC), whose priorities were justice and reconciliation and an end to apartheid. Under his guidance, SACC took a prominent position in South African spiritual and political life, challenging white society and the government and assisting victims of apartheid. Bishop Tutu became both a national and an international figure. Inevitably, he was heavily embroiled in controversy as he spoke out against the injustices of apartheid. For several years, he was denied a passport to travel abroad. He became a leader in the crusade for justice and racial conciliation in South Africa. In 1984, he received the Nobel Peace Prize in recognition of his extraordinary contributions to that cause. In 1985, he was elected bishop of Johannesburg.

In 1986, Bishop Tutu was elevated to archbishop of Cape Town, where he worked to bridge the chasm between black and white Anglicans in South Africa. Archbishop Tutu served as a principal mediator and conciliator in the transition to democracy in South Africa. In 1995, President Nelson Mandela appointed him chairman of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, a body that probed gross human rights violations that occurred under apartheid. In 1996, he retired from office as archbishop of Cape Town and was granted the honorary title of archbishop emeritus. In recent years, Archbishop Tutu has turned his attention to the campaign against HIV/AIDS. He has made appearances around the globe to help raise awareness of the disease and its tragic consequences in human lives and suffering.

Archbishop Tutu holds honorary degrees from more than 130 universities. He has also held distinguished academic and leadership posts in a variety of countries. He has received the Order for Meritorious Service Award (Gold) presented by President Mandela; the Archbishop of Canterbury's Award for Outstanding Service to the Anglican Communion; the Prix d'Athene (Onassis Foundation); the Family of Man Gold Medal Award; the Mexican Order of the Aztec Medal (Insignia Grade); the Martin Luther King, Jr. Non-Violent Peace Prize; the Sydney Peace Prize; and the Gandhi Peace Prize.

His writings include No Future Without Forgiveness and God Has a Dream. Though his vigorous advocacy of social justice once rendered him a controversial figure, today Archbishop Tutu is regarded as a leading moral voice and as an elder world statesman who plays a major role in reconciliation.

2008 Fulbright Prize Laureate
Archbishop Emeritus Desmond M. Tutu

The Fulbright Prize honors Archbishop Emeritus Desmond M. Tutu for his tireless work for peace in South Africa and elsewhere, for his courage in speaking out against injustice, and for his efforts to achieve a democratic and just society without racial division. The Prize recognizes Archbishop Tutu's abiding belief in our common humanity and his lifelong work to promote respect, forgiveness, and reconciliation among people. In his leadership of the South African Council of Churches during the apartheid era, in his tenure as chairman of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission that grappled with that era's human rights violations, and in his current work to alleviate the suffering caused by HIV/AIDS, Archbishop Tutu has spoken and acted as a person of extraordinary empathy and principle. His conviction that “I am because other people are” makes him one of the world’s most inspiring leaders.

The J. William Fulbright Prize for International Understanding

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The Fulbright Prize is made possible through a grant by The Coca-Cola Foundation, which has contributed more than $265 million to help build and support sustainable communities worldwide.
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