



Fulbright Prize

for International Understanding

Gary White & Matt Damon

May 16, 2024
Washington, DC



THE J. WILLIAM FULBRIGHT PRIZE FOR INTERNATIONAL UNDERSTANDING

The Fulbright Prize was established in 1993 by the Fulbright Association to honor the world's most respected exchange program as well as the internationalist 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.

AGENDA

Check-in Open	5:00 pm	Liberty Ballroom Foyer
Welcome Reception	5:30 pm	Liberty Ballroom Foyer
Seated Dinner & Dessert	6:30 pm	Liberty Ballroom
Prize Ceremony	8:00 pm	Liberty Ballroom & Live Streamed Globally

CEREMONY PROGRAM

Music	Ni Dembaya
Welcome	Dr. John Bader
Video	History of the Prize
Remarks & Honor Roll	Dr. Robert Gervasi
Video	Water.org
Dance Performance	GU Jawani
Introduction of Prize Laureates	Lynn Taliento
Prize Laureate Remarks	Gary White and Matt Damon
Moderated Conversation	Melissa Block

Music during dinner performed by
Cristian Perez & Yana Nikol

FULBRIGHT PRIZE LAUREATES

- 1993 **Nelson Mandela**, President of South Africa
- 1994 **Jimmy Carter**, President of the United States
- 1995 **Franz Vranitzky**, Chancellor of Austria
- 1996 **Corazon Aquino**, President of the Philippines
- 1997 **Václav Havel**, President of the Czech Republic
- 1998 **Patricio Aylwin Azócar**, President of Chile
- 1999 **Mary Robinson**, President of Ireland
- 2000 **Martti Ahtisaari**, President of Finland
- 2001 **Kofi Annan**, Secretary-General of the United Nations
- 2002 **Sadako Ogata**, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
- 2003 **Fernando Henrique Cardoso**, President of Brazil
- 2004 **Colin L. Powell**, United States Secretary of State
- 2006 **William Jefferson Clinton**, President of the United States
- 2008 **Desmond Tutu**, Archbishop of Cape Town
- 2010 **Bill and Melinda Gates**, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation
- 2012 **Médecins Sans Frontières/Doctors Without Borders**
- 2014 **Hans Blix**, Director General, International Atomic Energy Agency
- 2016 **Richard G. Lugar**, United States Senator
- 2018 **Angela Merkel**, Chancellor of Germany
- 2021 **Bono**, Lead Singer of U2, Activist, & Co-founder of ONE and (RED)
- 2022 **Dr. Kizzmekia Corbett & Dr. Anthony Fauci**, Public Health



Gary White and Matt Damon Fulbright Prize Laureates

Gary White

Gary White is the CEO and Co-founder of Water.org and WaterEquity, two organizations dedicated to breaking down the barriers between people living in poverty and access to safe water and sanitation. Gary developed Water.org's WaterCredit solution, creating new financing options for people in need to meet their water supply and sanitation needs.

He also developed WaterEquity, an impact investment manager dedicated to ending the global water crisis with an exclusive focus on mobilizing private investments in water and sanitation throughout Asia, Africa, and Latin America.

He is a leading advisor in the water and sanitation space, partnering with organizations such as Inditex, Reckitt, Amazon Web Services, the Water Resilience Coalition, and Bank of America on responses to the global water crisis.

Gary holds three degrees in Civil and Environmental Engineering from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and the Missouri University of Science and Technology.

Matt Damon

Academy Award winner Matt Damon is an actor, screenwriter, producer, and humanitarian, who has garnered international acclaim for his work both on- and off-screen.

Inspired during international travel with his family throughout Mexico and Guatemala as a youth, Matt has long been devoted to environmental and social issues.

Learning about the immense challenges of accessing safe water and sanitation in Sub-Saharan Africa, Matt decided to create the H2O Africa Foundation. In 2009, he teamed up with Gary White to join their organizations and launch Water.org, and in 2017, to create WaterEquity.

Matt's active participation in Water.org and WaterEquity's work, including site visits to multiple countries, strategy development, advocacy, and high-level meetings with institutions like the World Bank and the World Economic Forum over the past decade, has positioned him as one of the world's experts on water and sanitation issues.

SPEAKERS AND PERFORMERS



Lynn Taliento

Lynn Taliento is Senior Advisor at McKinsey & Company, where she founded the firm's first practice area dedicated to social impact work more than 25 years ago. Lynn works with the world's leading philanthropists, corporations, and nonprofits on social impact strategy, governance, and organizational effectiveness, often helping clients create bold new initiatives and organizations. She worked with President Obama to design and launch the Obama Foundation, helped Bono create Product (RED) and the ONE Campaign, and worked with Nobel Prize winner Malala Yousafzai to create the Malala Fund, which advocates for girls' education around the world. Lynn serves on the board of directors at Malala Fund, Water.org, Lever for Change, and change.org, the world's largest petition platform. She led McKinsey's foundational research on the social sector, including the seminal report "And the Winner Is" on how to design prizes that work, and is currently leading McKinsey's research on "CEO excellence" in the philanthropic sector. She has a B.A. from Yale University and a Master's degree in Public Policy from Harvard's Kennedy School where she was a Kennedy Fellow. She spent four years in McKinsey's Mexico City office and is fluent in Spanish. Lynn and her husband Michael Warren have two kids, Amelia and Noah, and live in Washington, DC.



Melissa Block

Melissa Block, a Fulbright alumna to Switzerland and longtime NPR host and correspondent, is celebrated for her decades of warm yet incisive reporting. As host of "All Things Considered" from 2003 to 2015, her work took her around the country and the world, from the Mississippi Gulf Coast after Hurricane Katrina to Sichuan, China, during a massive earthquake. Her coverage earned NPR prestigious awards, including the George Foster Peabody Award, the duPont-Columbia Award, and the Edward R. Murrow Award.

As an NPR special correspondent from 2015 to 2023, Block reported on a wide range of issues: LGBTQ rights, the Big Lie, guns and suicide, opioid addiction. Her story on the historic Chinese community in the Mississippi Delta, from her series "Our Land," won a James Beard Award. As part of the NPR teams covering the 2018 Winter Olympics in Pyeongchang, South Korea, and the 2016 Summer Olympics in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, she delighted in drawing attention to lesser-known sports, including biathlon, skeleton, badminton, and team handball.

Block received the 2019 Murrow Lifetime Achievement Award in Journalism and the 2019 Lifetime Achievement Award from the Fulbright Association. She began her NPR career in 1985 and was a correspondent in New York during the Sept. 11 attacks, contributing to NPR's Peabody Award. Block is a Harvard University graduate and lives in Washington, DC, with her husband, author Stefan Fatsis.



Cristian Perez & Yana Nikol

Cristian Perez, an Argentine-American 7-string guitarist and composer based in Northern Virginia, performs globally and is active in the DC area. He leads Project Locrea and The Guitar Renegades.

Bulgarian flutist Yana Nikol blends jazz, world, and classical music, freelances in the DMV area, directs Project Locrea, and runs a private flute studio since 2010.



Ni Dembaya

Established in Washington, DC, circa 2013 by Yuma "Dr. Yew" Bellomee and "Bobo" Earl Rahjae Bellomee, Ni Dembaya African Drum & Dance Ensemble shines in African-centered education and performance. Dedicated to showcasing diverse African rhythms, songs, and dances, it uplifts, empowers, and fosters connections within the African diaspora. Rooted in the Ewe drumming tradition, Ni

Dembaya skillfully presents intricate rhythms. The master drummer preserves rhythmic heritage, while the master dancer embodies the music's spirit. Collaborating with the Creative Suitland Arts Center, Ni Dembaya extends its mission, fostering community connections through workshops and performances, unifying diverse cultures through the vibrant spirit of African tradition.



GU Jawani

Georgetown University's Co-ed Bhangra Dance Team, established in 2003, performs this lively and energetic dance form that originated in the Punjab region of India and Pakistan. The team performs at campus events like Hoya Madness, Verizon Center halftime shows, GAAP Weekends, and Georgetown Day. Beyond campus, GU Jawani competes in inter-collegiate competitions, fostering connections with bhangra teams from other universities.

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ANYTHING CAN CHANGE THE WORLD OF WORK. BUT IT TAKES GREAT PEOPLE TO CHANGE THE WORLD.

We are proud to support the Fulbright Association for their commitment to education, advocacy and service. Congratulations to this year's Fulbright Prize recipients: Gary White and Matt Damon.

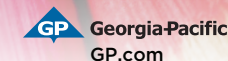
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The Rice Global Paris Center, Rice's first international campus, serves as the university's hub in Europe, facilitating exchange and collaboration, furthering research collaborations, and providing a unique and inspiring space for undergraduate and graduate studies in France and beyond.



Pathways to Global Citizenship Youth Summit

Over 100 BIPOC students attended the first Pathways to Global Leadership Youth Summit in Denver, Colorado, in October 2023. Over 50 percent of the attendees identified as current or future first-generation college students.



Watch the
2023 Youth Summit
video highlights



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The 1946 Society, a giving society, honors the founding year of the Fulbright Program. Membership supports the Fulbright Association's mission to continue and extend the Fulbright tradition of education, advocacy, and service. Thank you to the dedicated and generous donors in this extraordinary group.

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FULBRIGHT ASSOCIATION

Since 1977, the Fulbright Association has been a force for positive change, extending and magnifying the impact of the Fulbright Program through education, community service and outreach, networking, and advocacy. As the American alumni organization of the Fulbright exchange program, the Association serves a vibrant, diverse, and inclusive community committed to international cooperation through cultural understanding and respect. To learn more, visit www.fulbright.org. In addition to the Fulbright Prize, other Association programs include:

- **Fulbright in the Classroom:** Fulbrighters share their knowledge and love for international exchange with students K-College through this national community outreach program
- **Youth Summit:** Focused on student populations that are historically underrepresented in international exchange, volunteers lead workshops to inspire and prepare students to participate in study abroad opportunities
- **Chapters and Interest Groups:** Chapters across America and interest groups online offer a wide range of educational and social programming to engage alumni and visiting Fulbrighters from 165 countries
- **Mentoring:** Supporting the personal and professional lives of young Fulbrighters is a priority, so the Association pairs young alumni and current grantees with experienced Fulbrighters in an expanding mentoring program
- **National Conference:** The Fulbright community gathers in-person and virtually to celebrate its diversity by sharing research and ideas, musical and dance performances, and more
- **Advocacy:** Fulbrighters help members of Congress to better understand the positive impact of the Fulbright Program, ensuring its future with continued funding and support
- **Travel:** Alumni enjoy uniquely "Fulbright" trips that weave together cultural experiences, public service, and connections to local organizations and peoples

Prize Medal Artist

In 2012, sculptor Gretta L. Bader contributed to the Fulbright Association her portrait of Senator J. William Fulbright, now adapted to a medal that is given to each Prize recipient. Gretta's husband William was among the first Fulbright grantees to Germany in 1953. Their son John is the Executive Director of the Fulbright Association.



Event Photos

Scan the QR code to access Fulbright Prize photos. Step & Repeat photos will be available on Sunday, May 19. All event photos will be available on Monday, June 3.



<https://rb.gy/611gni>

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