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Press Release

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Christopher Raastad Receives Fulbright Award

Mr. Christopher D. Raastad of University of Washington has been awarded a Fulbright U.S. Student Program scholarship to Estonia in Computer Sciences, the United States Department of State and the J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board announced recently.

Raastad is one of over 1,600 U.S. citizens who will travel abroad for the 2011-2012 academic year through the Fulbright U.S. Student Program.

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. The primary source of funding for the Fulbright Program is an annual appropriation made by the U.S. Congress to the U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. Participating governments and host institutions, corporations and foundations in foreign countries and in the United States also provide direct and indirect support. 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 over 155 countries worldwide.

Since its establishment in 1946 under legislation introduced by the late U.S. Senator J. William Fulbright of Arkansas, the Fulbright Program has given approximately 300,000 students, scholars, teachers, artists, and scientists the opportunity to study, teach and conduct research, exchange ideas and contribute to finding solutions to shared international concerns.

Fulbright alumni have achieved distinction in government, science, the arts, business, philanthropy, education, and athletics. Forty Fulbright alumni from 11 countries have been awarded the Nobel Prize, and 75 alumni have received Pulitzer Prizes. Prominent Fulbright alumni include: **Muhammad Yunus**, Managing Director and Founder, Grameen Bank, and 2006 Nobel Peace Prize recipient; **John Atta Mills**, President of Ghana; **Lee Evans**, Olympic Gold Medalist; **Ruth Simmons**, President, Brown University; **Riccardo Giacconi**, Physicist and 2002 Nobel Laureate; **Amar Gopal Bose**, Chairman and Founder, Bose Corporation; **Renee Fleming**, soprano; **Gish Jen**, Writer; and **Daniel Libeskind**, Architect.

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: <http://fulbright.state.gov> or contact James A. Lawrence, Office of Academic Exchange Programs, telephone 202-632-3241, or e-mail fulbright@state.gov