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Georgia Southern University Doctoral Student Receives U.S. Student Fulbright Grant

JUNE 6, 2008



Georgia Southern University doctoral student Jeffrey Palis has been awarded a U.S. Student Fulbright Grant to study in Latvia. Palis is pursuing his doctoral degree in the Department of Curriculum, Foundations, and Reading in the College of Education and is the Study Abroad and Exchange Coordinator in the Center for International Studies.

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Palis' research project, Cultivating Global Citizenship, will explore how global citizenship can be fostered on university campuses and in local communities. During his time in Latvia, Palis will work in collaboration with the Department of International

Relations at the University of Latvia, Riga.

"Simply put, this is a dream come true for me. My time in Latvia will certainly have a profound impact on my dissertation and on my professional practice, however, I am most excited to truly become what I am studying a global citizen," says Palis.

Palis holds a Master of Arts degree in International Studies from East Carolina University and a Bachelor of Arts degree in Geography from the University of North Carolina at Wilmington. He has served as Chair of the Ad-hoc Strategic Planning Committee of the European Council of the University System of Georgia, as well as Program Coordinator for the University System of Georgia's summer studies programs in London, Paris, Czech Republic and Poland.

Palis' grant represents the fourth U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs award presented to a Georgia Southern University student in the past two years. Previous recipients include Nicole Harper, who received a U.S. Student Fulbright Grant to Slovenia for 2007-2008; Jacob Taylor, who was awarded a Gilman International Scholarship to Finland for spring 2008; and Zechariah Anderson, who received a Critical Language Scholarship to study Arabic in Egypt this summer.

During the months leading up to the Fulbright deadline, Palis worked with the staff of the University Honors Program. The University Honors Program serves as the campus clearinghouse for nationally competitive scholarships and fellowships and is committed to helping prepare all Georgia Southern University students for these awards.

"Jeff's wealth of experience and the quality of his research proposal certainly played a significant role in making his application successful. I am confident Jeff will serve as an excellent ambassador for Georgia Southern University and the United States during his time in Latvia," said Steve Engel, Ph.D., director of the University Honors Program and Fulbright Program Adviser at Georgia Southern University.

'Jeff's accomplishment is symbolic of Georgia Southern University's mission to prepare our students to serve as world citizens. His project will have a broad impact in helping foster greater international understanding between the United States and Eastern Europe," said Bob Frigo, assistant director, University Honors Program and Chair, Fulbright Campus Committee.

The U.S. Student Fulbright Program, which operates in more than 150 countries worldwide, is sponsored by the U.S. Department of State through the Institute of International Education. Established in 1946 by the U.S. Congress, the program's goal is to "enable the government of the United States to increase mutual understanding between the people of the United States and the people of other countries." Today, the Fulbright Program is the largest U.S. international exchange program offering opportunities for students, scholars and professionals to undertake international graduate study, advanced research, university teaching, and teaching in elementary and secondary schools worldwide.?

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