Message from the Dean's Office

Welcome to the Fall 2014 issue of the Fulbright Review. Fall is the perfect time to be on campus with new students, faculty and staff all learning their way around. There is a crispness in the air and the trees are beginning to turn. If you find yourself strolling along senior walk, especially when classes change, then you’ll see that the university’s record enrollment of more than 26,000 students is keeping all of us on our toes.

Fall is also a good time to share news with our Fulbright Family. From remembrances of friends past, to shared scholarship, alumni who give back, and plans for continued growth, the stories in this issue will remind you what it means to be part of Fulbright College and all it stands for.

As always, we love to hear your feedback. I hope you’ll share your triumphs with us and let us know what you’d like to read about in the future.

Best Wishes,
Legacy
A Director of Note: Richard “Doc” Worthington
More than 370 students are participating in the Razorback Marching Band or a concert band during the fall 2014 semester. Band members are supported by four band directors, two staff members and six graduate assistants.

In the fall of 1957, Richard Worthington arrived to a very different program. Worthington, affectionately known as Doc, was finishing his doctorate from the University of Illinois when he accepted the director of bands position at the University of Arkansas. Worthington took over a band program of 81 students.

The band’s nickname at the time was the “Marching 100.” Worthington restyled the band as the “Marching Razorbacks” to differentiate the group from other college bands and to open the opportunity for the band to grow in numbers. Over Worthington’s 14-year tenure, the band nearly doubled to more than 150 members.

Alumnus Bill Woolly, who served as a drum major under Worthington, remembers the director for his kindness and generosity to students.

“Doc was one of the nicest men I ever met,” Woolly said. “He depended on student staff and trusted them to help run the program.”

Under Worthington’s direction, the Razorback Band played for President John F. Kennedy at the dedication of the Greers Ferry Lake in Heber Springs on Oct. 3, 1963. The band also played for President Richard Nixon in 1969 when the No. 2 ranked Razorbacks lost to the No. 1 ranked Texas Longhorns in Fayetteville.

Worthington’s most enduring legacy to the university came in 1964 when he oversaw the integration of the Razorback Band. Geneva Hill, a native of Little Rock and an alto saxophone player, became the first African-American member of the Razorback Band. James Seawood, a tenor saxophone player and the first African-American male band member, joined Hill in 1965.

Probably the most controversial subject during Worthington’s time at the University of Arkansas was the desire by some campus groups to remove “Dixie” from the band’s repertoire at the athletic and campus events. Strong feelings on both sides of the issue arose during the last few years that Worthington served as the school’s band director and especially when he eventually decided in the fall of 1969 not to play the tune anymore. Courageous an act that it was, he and the band felt the effects for a long time afterward. In fact, his successor would have to deal with the fallout for years to come.~ The University of Arkansas Razorback Band: A History 1874-2004
After leaving the University of Arkansas, Worthington was appointed chair of the Music Department at Northeastern Louisiana University, now the University of Louisiana at Monroe. He served as director of the School of Music for 17 years and was named director emeritus in 1989 before retiring in 1995. He is also credited with the founding of the Monroe Symphony Orchestra.

Worthington served in the U.S. Army Air Corps during World War II, and for many years served as the commercial, instrument rating and chief flight instructor for McMahan Aviation in Monroe. He and several other pilots from around Louisiana formed Angel Flight in 1997 and Pilots for Patients in 2007.

Worthington passed away on April 3, 2014, at the age of 93.

“…[H]e left behind such a legacy of goodwill among band members and the faculty that he was frequently invited back for special celebrations and anniversaries to be honored for his many contributions to the organization.” ~ The University of Arkansas Razorback Band: A History 1874-2004

(from left to right):
Doc conducting the concert band (spring 1967)
Doc accepting a gift from TCU Band Director Jacobsen. The Gift: A clock with the inscription "To Doc, a Little Man with a Big Reputation" (presented after halftime in Fayetteville, 1969)
Doc with the concert band (spring 1968)
Legacy
Fulbright College Hosts Fulbright Board, Global Forum on Food Security
In September, Fulbright College broadened its Fulbright connections by hosting the Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board. The board was on campus for three days, and members and staff had the opportunity to visit with Fulbright Scholars, several deans, the provost and the chancellor.

Chancellor Gearhart took the group on a tour of campus, they spent time with the Fulbright Papers in Special Collections and saw the Fulbright Triptych, a piece of art inspired by the artist’s trip to Germany on a Fulbright Fellowship. They also visited the Fulbright home, spoke with members of Sen. Fulbright’s family and had an opportunity to tour Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art.

The board holds four meetings a year at various locations. This was its 264th quarterly meeting, and the members and staff in attendance were happy to be in the senator’s home town and to see some of the places that help shape the public servant. Many said they gained a new perspective on the man and his vision to bring the world together by turning nations into people through educational exchange and mutual understanding.

At every meeting, the board holds a public forum of interest to the Fulbright Program and the world. The event that they co-hosted with Fulbright College, “Fulbright for Food Security,” was well received by the local community and drew an audience that represented 28 countries. Those who attended in person and via live stream engaged with expert panelists about initiatives by Fulbright fellows and alumni to combat hunger through collaborative research, education, innovation new technology, and economic and policy development.

Participant comments included:

"It was an honor to have UA host the Fulbright Board. Great panelist selection! The facilitator was absolutely excellent. It was very informative. I liked having the perspective of the woman from Botswana, and the man from Mexico. I liked the degree of audience participation and the questions that were taken. These events are important to bring people together to become aware of issues. I am studying abroad this semester and am unable to attend many events. I am very pleased to see events like these made available via livestream. Although I am thousands of miles away, it felt like I was right back on campus again. I enjoyed it and would like to see more events like this in the future. So wonderful to have the Fulbright board here on campus."

Panelists included board member and Fulbright Program alumnus Mark Alexander, who served as moderator; Fulbright NEXUS fellow Erick de la Barrera, who participated from his current post in Mexico where he is investigating issues on ecology, climate change, policy and public education in food security;
Kay Goss, an internationally recognized lecturer, author and former associate director of the U.S. Federal Emergency Management Agency in charge of National Preparedness, Education and Exercises and national chair of the National Emergency Food and Shelter Program; Curt Rom, professor of horticulture, interim dean of the Honors College and Fulbright Program alumnus; and Kabo Segokgo, a food and nutrition educator from Botswana, who is currently using a Fulbright grant to pursue a graduate degree in human environmental science.

Board members are appointed by the President of the United States. The members select participants and set policies for the Fulbright Program, which is supported by the people of the United States and partner countries around the world. More than 360,000 participants from 165 countries have had the opportunity to study, teach, conduct research, exchange ideas and contribute to finding solutions to shared international concerns.

The Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board and Fulbright College are making plans to continue their collaborations and looking for innovative ways to support and advance the Fulbright legacy.

Panelists at the “Fulbright for Food Security” global forum. Left to right – Curt Rom, Kabo Segokgo, Kay Goss, Mark Alexander, Erick de la Barrea (on screen)
Gifts
Fulbright Legacy, Guiding All Students
In 2013, a loyal friend of Fulbright College endowed the “J. William Fulbright Legacy Fund” to enhance Fulbright College’s public commitment and to expose the university, its students and wider audiences to the life, work and philosophy of J. William Fulbright.

Although the endowment is still a few years from use, the college is preparing for the gift by increasing its efforts to unify the college through visual associations.

Named after former University President and United States Senator J. William Fulbright, the college is the largest at the University of Arkansas. It includes 19 academic departments, has more than 30 programs and research centers and specializes in degrees within the fine arts, humanities, natural sciences and social sciences. Due to its size and breadth, the college has taken a new step to connect with students, using banners to establish a relationship and sense of place across campus.

There are 16 banners placed in 12 buildings throughout campus, allowing people to identify which buildings are part of the college.

Every University of Arkansas student will be involved with Fulbright College at some point in his or her academic career, even if it is only to obtain core classes. The images provide a greeting to these students, letting them know that Fulbright College has touched their lives.

Designed by Ali Williams, the college’s director of creative services, the banners have a few variations throughout Old Main, which houses several of the college’s departments and the Dean’s Office. The banners distributed around campus each have a picture of the J. William Fulbright sculpture that stands outside Old Main, creating a visual cue for students to remind them of the legacy of J. William Fulbright. The design also includes the phrase “Peace Through Education,” a call back to the senator’s belief that world peace may be achieved though educational exchange and enhancing peoples’ understanding of one another.

The Fulbright College banners maintain a sense of unity through a visible bond to all students, faculty, staff and guests who are a part of the University of Arkansas.

(from left to right):
Wall size back drop used for events depicting the Fulbright statue, senior walk and Old Main, Peace Through Education banner and Old Main banner.
Gifts
Playing it Forward: New Scholarship Created for Aspiring Pianists
Alumnus John Howard Morris, a former resident of Fayetteville who now resides in Corpus Christi, Texas, is helping aspiring piano students at the University of Arkansas thanks to a $160,000 gift and the creation of the John Howard Morris Piano Scholarship.

“Mr. Morris’s support of our music department is inspiring,” said Todd Shields, Fulbright College dean. “He is a loyal contributor to the university, particularly in the area of scholarship support, and has been for years. We are thankful for his contribution and passion for helping students pursue their dreams. His gift will be an excellent resource for recruiting and retaining promising pianists in Fulbright College.”

Morris developed an interest in playing the piano at an early age and took lessons beginning in the fourth grade. He was taught by Elizabeth McGill Bohart, a well-known teacher in Fayetteville.

After coming to the university as a student, Morris considered majoring in music but opted for history instead. Post-graduation, he spent time teaching in Tennessee, Kansas and Texas and eventually ended up at Wharton Junior College, southwest of Houston.

It was there that he renewed his passion for music and began taking lessons once again, this time from Edward Petsch. Morris, then in his 40s, found great satisfaction pursuing piano as a hobby.

Today, Morris is channeling his love for music—and the piano, in particular—into his philanthropy with the creation of the scholarship in his name. When the scholarship is funded, two students will benefit annually and receive financial assistance to help cover their college expenses.

“Piano music and playing the piano have always been close to my heart,” said Morris. “I wanted to support aspiring piano players with this gift.”

This gift builds on seven previous student awards from Morris. In 2001, he created two Chancellor’s Scholarships – one in business and one in history. Several years later, he pledged $250,000 to establish five Access Arkansas scholarships at the university.
Successes
A+DD = Opportunities for Public Art, Cooperation

Faculty and staff in the Department of Art have been working with Fulbright College and the University of Arkansas for more than a year on a new Art and Design District, known as A+DD. They have recruited
some of the top designers and architecture studios in the region to transform a former refrigerated warehouse into a cutting edge educational art facility that will include sculpture workshops, classroom space and graduate student studios.

The 3.8-acre satellite site, located on Hill Street in South Fayetteville, will include a 33,000 square foot building for the department, and its proximity to the Frisco Trail will give students more exposure in the community.

Architects with Modus Studio in Fayetteville and el dorado inc in Kansas City, Missouri, have designed a space with the department’s needs in mind. David Dowell, a principal architect with el dorado, and University of Arkansas alumnus Jason Wright, partner and fabricator for Modus, are assigned to the project, and Wright serves as the manager on site.

“The project is designed to bring the labor intensive art and design disciplines together under a single pre-fabricated metal roof,” according to Wright. “The building itself will act as a two-story gallery fit for near constant use, with day-lit corridors and critique spaces facilitated by a partially translucent façade.”

A+DD will be completed in two phases. Phase one will focus on workshop needs for the art department’s sculpture program. Phase two will include graduate student studios and classroom space for the department’s foundations classes—the core art studios for all art majors.

“This is going to be an amazing asset for the department and facilitate interdisciplinary and cross-disciplinary curriculum,” said Bethany Springer, vice chair and graduate director for the department and associate professor of sculpture. “The addition of a foundry, metal shop and advanced technologies lab combined with our wood shop under one roof will provide our graduate and undergraduate students with much needed space, equipment and technical processes to fabricate safely in an environment that will encourage camaraderie and community collaborations. This facility will enable the sculpture area to compete on a national level and will contribute significantly towards recruitment.”

The expansion into this satellite facility will give the department a new competitive edge. While it has been able to provide instruction in these techniques through the use of shared and multi-use spaces, this will be the first area dedicated to these artistic disciplines.

“In addition to being an asset to our students, the new space will give us greater visibility in the community,” said Jeannie Hulen, chair of the department. “We’re really excited about
the potential for public art projects along the trail and working with the university and the city to encourage more studio visits and visiting artists.”

Modus and el dorado have each received acclaim for a commitment to sustainable buildings that complement their environments. El dorado was formally incorporated in 1996 and has won more than 150 awards. Started in 2008, Modus is a smaller firm founded on “the idea that the patterns, perceptions, senses and notions of daily life can inspire good design,” according to the company’s website. The studio’s body of work includes an air port terminal, a middle school and several apartment buildings, including the award-winning Eco Modern Flats in Fayetteville.

Work on A+DD is scheduled to begin in late 2014 or early 2015, with move-in expected in fall 2015. It will open for classes in spring 2016.

Rendering of A+DD (day) trail approach from the west. Please note that the renderings are illustrative only. The design may have evolved since the rendering was created.
Successes
Celebrating the Social Sciences

The accomplishments of our students, faculty, staff and alumni are an important focus of the Fulbright Review. Fulbright College is comprised of four distinct areas, the fine arts, humanities, social sciences
and natural sciences. Each issue of the *Fulbright Review* dedicates a story within the Successes section to some of the year’s highlights within a particular area. The fall issue features successes in the social sciences.

The University of Arkansas social science faculty ranked fifth for sharing their research information with the news media, according to a ranking system developed by the Faculty Media Impact Project at Hawaii Pacific University.

The Department of Political Science and the School of Social Work partnered with Feed Communities to host the first **University of Arkansas Food Justice Summit**, Nov. 12-14, 2013, at a variety of locations in Fayetteville. The food justice movement promotes fair and equal access to healthy food by all members of a community. The three-day summit incorporated lectures, panel discussions and table exercises to address the issue of food justice in Arkansas.

**Department of Anthropology**

- Associate professor Kirstin Erickson was named director of the Latin American and Latino Studies Program.


- Assistant professor Jonathan Marion assumed leadership of the Society for Visual Anthropology. Marion took office as president of the society during the American Anthropological Association’s 112th annual meeting, held Nov. 20-24, 2013, in Chicago.

- Doctoral candidate Ethan Morton-Jerome was awarded a Mediterranean Regional Research Fellowship from the Council of American Overseas Research Centers.

- Rachael Pellegrino, a Bodenhamer Fellow and Honors College student majoring in anthropology and biochemistry, was selected as a finalist for the Rhodes Scholarship.
Lucas Delezene was named assistant professor. He has served as a visiting assistant professor for the University of Arkansas since 2011.

Assistant professor Jesse Casana and co-author John Kanter, revealed never-before-seen structures in an Ancient Native American settlement called Blue J. The researchers used a small drone to capture thermal images that allowed them to peer under the surface of the New Mexican desert floor. Casana also presented the results of the new CORONA Atlas of the Middle East. The Atlas team revealed thousands of ancient cities, roads, canals and other ruins using Cold War spy-satellite photos.

Photo: The 1960s image at left captures an area of southern Iraq’s marshes, many of which have since been drained. The photo at right is of the same location in the early 2000s.

Michael Plavcan and a team of scholars analyzed a newly discovered bone from the hand of an East African hominim. The bone provides the earliest record of a structural feature related to tool use. At 1.42 million years old, the bone is evidence of the evolution of a distinctive feature of modern hands more than half a million years earlier than previously known.

The University of Arkansas Press published Pinson Mounds: Middle Woodland Ceremonialism in the Midsouth by Robert C. Mainfort. Mainfort retired from a long career as an archaeologist with the Arkansas Archeological Survey and professor of anthropology.

Michael Hoffman, professor emeritus, contributed $25,000 to create the Margaret J. Hoffman Endowed Scholarship for Citizens of Tribes Indigenous to the United States. The scholarship is named in honor of Hoffman’s late wife, Margaret “Peggy” Hoffman, who was also a faculty member in the department.

Department of Political Science

Assistant professor Geoboo Song’s highly referenced study, “Understanding Public Perceptions of Benefits and Risks of Childhood Vaccinations in the United States,” was published in the Society of Risk Analysis’ journal Risk Analysis.
Najib Ghadbian, associate professor, made several appearances in the press and was featured on NPR as the Syrian National Coalition's envoy to the U.N.

Findings from the most recent Blair Center-Clinton School Poll showed that a person's identification as “southern” has a greater impact on attitudes than place of residence, and the demographics of southern identity are rapidly changing.

Pearl K. Dowe, associate professor, led an exploration of the role of a "living" constitution and how expanding individual rights can conflict with the nation's political and social identity in celebration of Constitution Day.

Internationally recognized lecturer, author and public servant Kay Goss joined the department of political science for a semester as its first Executive in Residence. Goss was also elected as a Fellow of the National Academy of Public Administration. Academy fellows include more than 750 individuals who have served as cabinet officers, members of congress and governors, as well as prominent scholars, business executives and public administrators.

Angie Maxwell, the Diane D. Blair professor of southern studies and assistant professor of political science, was a guest on MSNBC’s The Cycle Monday, April 28. Maxwell discussed her book, The Indicted South: Public Criticism, Southern Inferiority, and the Politics of Whiteness (New Directions in Southern Studies).

Students Cameron Woods and Autumn Lewis, were honored with the annual Henry Woods Student Leadership Award.

Former faculty member Robert Monson passed away May 22, 2014, at his home in Alexandria, Virginia. Monson joined the U of A faculty as an assistant professor in 1968, served as acting chair of the political science department and acting associate dean of the college, and left the university at the end of 1990.
Department of Psychological Science

- Ellen Leen-Feldner and Matthew Feldner, associate professors, launched a new program to help families cope with stressful situations. The Equipping Families to Work on Relationships for Kids program is designed to gain a better understanding of how families function following stressful or difficult experiences.

- The office of annual programs selected students Shannon Davis and Shelby Tarver to serve as Class Gift Council members for the 2013-2014 school year. Davis is double majoring in biology and psychology, and Tarver is double majoring in international relations and psychology.

- The U.S. Department of Education’s Institute of Education Sciences has awarded a four-year grant of $1.3 million to a research team led by University of Arkansas psychology professor Tim Cavell.

- Jennifer Veilleux, assistant professor, was awarded a SEC Visiting Faculty Travel Grant to visit the Personality and Emotion Laboratory at the University of Missouri.

- Nathan Parks, assistant professor, received a three-year grant totaling $259,078 from the National Institutes of Health titled "Short-Term Plasticity in the Human Visual System: The Role of Cortical Feedback."

- Honors Fellow Alexander Wolf won the Under 2000 rating section of the Chess World Open Blitz Championship.

  Alexander Wolf teaches basic chess ideas to the elementary school members of St. Joseph's Catholic School's chess club, where he volunteers as an instructor.

School of Social Work

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The School of Social Work and the Social Work Action Group, also known as SWAG, hosted an Affordable Care Act open enrollment event in the spring of 2014 at the Fayetteville Public Library.

- University of Arkansas alumni Tom Bercher and Francis Hayes Bercher of Racine, Wisconsin, established a trust to benefit students in Fulbright College. The Tom Bercher History Fellowship and Francis Hayes Bercher Social Work Scholarship Fund will both be established as a result of their generous philanthropy.

- The school's graduate program is among the top 50 percent of programs in the United States, according to U.S. News and World Report's 2015 edition of Best Graduate Schools.

- Yvette Murphy-Erby was promoted from director of the school to associate dean of the college. She was also among four University of Arkansas faculty members selected as fellows of the 2013-2014 Southeastern Conference Academic Leadership Development Program.

- April Rand joined the School of Social Work as assistant professor.

- Undergraduate students Shelly Nelson, Heather Edge, Cynthia Flynn, Patrick Crisp, Jenni Conner, Emily Cox and Kim Williams won the Policy Poster Presentation Competition for the bachelor of social work category at the Arkansas Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers' annual meeting. Graduate students Joanna Sites, Kathy Shook, Nicki Nanton and Benita Shaddix won the master of social work competition.

**Department of Sociology and Criminal Justice**

- Assistant professor Juan Bustamante's book, *Transnational Struggles: Policy, Gender, and Family Life on the Texas-Mexico Border*, was released in December 2013 by LFB Scholarly Publishing.

- Graduate students Brent Klein, Noah Schneider, Andy Brooks, Lauren Grantham and Kayla Allison presented their terrorism research at the annual Academy Criminal Justice Sciences conference.
• Kevin Fitzpatrick, Jones Chair of Community and Family, worked with Fayetteville High School students as part of the Adopt-A-Classroom program in the College of Education and Health Professions. The project, “How Do You See Community” was aimed at raising the students’ understanding of what “community” means and how their own experiences shape that view.

• Fitzpatrick also edited two volumes of essays by an interdisciplinary group of authors. Poverty and Health: A Crisis among America’s Most Vulnerable provides readers with a glimpse into the poverty and health paradox as well as an examination of the crucial nexus of health and place.

• Student Murphy McCrary received the Purple Heart during a ceremony on campus after being wounded while deployed in Afghanistan.

• Research professor Sergey Prosandeev and Distinguished Professor Laurent Bellaiche produced research showing that behavior could be predicted and understood in thin films made of materials called relaxors, which can be used in electronic devices.

• Jeff Gruenewald, assistant professor, and colleagues Steven Chermak at Michigan State University and Joshua D. Freilich at the City University of New York examined characteristics of far-right, extremist homicides in the United States over the past decade. Their findings were published in Studies in Conflict and Terrorism and Criminology and Public Policy.
Events
A Debt Repaid: Liebolt Documentary to Premiere in November
In November, Fulbright College will host the premiere screening of a documentary film about a distinguished alumnus. *A Debt Repaid: The Legacy of Dr. Frederick Lee Liebolt*, by journalism graduate student Kelley Miller, will premiere at 6 p.m. Friday, Nov. 7, in the Janelle Y. Hembree House’s Boyer Hall.

Miller’s film profiles Liebolt’s career as a world-renowned orthopedic surgeon, inventor and educator and celebrates his relationship with his beloved alma mater.

When he and his classmate J. William Fulbright earned their degrees in 1925, Liebolt was only 19 years old and the university’s youngest graduate—a distinction he would hold for decades. He went on to graduate and medical school.

Liebolt’s family moved to Fayetteville when he was five, but his Illinois birth made him no less an Arkansan. Before attending the U of A as a college student, he attended University High School, and while his education, career and military service took him to many different states, he remained loyal to Arkansas. He ultimately made his medical practice in New York, but he held tight to Fayetteville and the university and made a point to give back to the place that helped shape his future.

In 1985, Liebolt established an endowed Chair of Premedical Sciences on campus. He wanted to support a premedical program that would enhance the undergraduate experience of students interested in the field of medicine and insure that students were able to enter the medical school of their choice.

Today, the Liebolt Premedical Program in Fulbright College provides guidance to students from every college who are interested in becoming a physician. The program assists students from all degree programs, works with alumni who choose to apply to medical school and advises students who have completed a degree at another institution but plan to attend the University of Arkansas to fulfill their medical school requirements. Students have been accepted to a variety of medical schools including the University of Arkansas for Medial Sciences, Baylor, Cornell, Emory, Johns Hopkins, McGill, Tufts, Vanderbilt and Liebolt’s alma matter Washington University in St. Louis.

The University of Arkansas awarded him an Honorary Doctor of Laws in 1948 and named him a Distinguished Alumnus in 1973. In 1989, Liebolt gave the Fulbright College commencement address. Upon his death in 1996, he bequeathed his papers to the University of Arkansas Libraries, housed in Special Collections.

Please join the Walter J. Lemke Department of Journalism, the J. William Fulbright College of Arts and Sciences and the University of Arkansas, at the premiere of *A Debt Repaid* on Friday, Nov. 7, to learn...
more about this respected physician who will be remembered for his pioneering work in orthopedic surgery, distinguished teaching career, patriotism and loyalty to the university that gave him his start.
Events
Self-confidence vs. Self-doubt Give Balance to Art, Life
Early on in the recent PBS documentary, James McNeill Whistler and the Case for Beauty, an actor portraying the famous artist struts along a riverbank, wearing all black and smiling slyly as he pokes his bamboo cane into the dirt on every stride.

A voice is heard as the viewer watches the scene.

“He alternates between this enormous self-confidence and enormous self-doubt and I think that’s what makes him so intriguing,” says Whistler biographer Daniel E. Sutherland, one of nine authorities on Whistler’s life who lent their expertise in the making of the film. “His public image is someone who never doubted himself. He purposefully creates this ‘other Whistler.’ He talks about the other Whistler as apart from himself.”

Sutherland, a Distinguished Professor of history in Fulbright College, described the “two Whistlers” in his well-received biography, Whistler: A Life for Art’s Sake, released in March 2014 by Yale University Press. It was the first published biography of the artist in more than two decades. There have been nearly 20 biographies of Whistler since he died in 1903, but Sutherland’s is the first to make extensive use of his private correspondence.

In 1871 Whistler painted the famous Arrangement in Grey and Black No. 1, known colloquially as Whistler’s Mother. The iconic painting became one of the most recognizable portraits in the Western world. Whistler has been remembered in previous histories as a carefree, unrelenting publicity seeker. In his biography, Sutherland presents a Whistler that was intense, introspective, complex and driven to perfection.

Karen Thomas, the documentary’s award-winning producer, approached Sutherland in 2005 to act as a historical consultant on the film. As the project progressed, Thomas asked Sutherland to help shape the script — although Thomas did all the writing — and to appear on screen as someone with a comprehensive knowledge of Whistler.

Sutherland also accompanied Thomas and her film crew when they were shooting scenes for the film in England.

“It was fascinating to see how a filmmaker went about telling Whistler’s story, where the emphasis is on images, rather than on text,” Sutherland said. “It was also a daunting task — and at times tremendously frustrating — to cram Whistler’s life and work into 50 minutes.”
The documentary aired nationally on Sept. 12. On Sept. 8, Sutherland was a panelist at a seminar in Washington D.C. “James McNeill Whistler: Finding the Man and the Artist,” was hosted by the Smithsonian Institution and accompanied a showing of the documentary.

Sutherland has had a busy year. He gave a talk in his hometown of Detroit on June 4, “Jimmy and Me: My Life With Whistler,” at the Detroit Institute of the Arts. The institute has a significant collection of Whistler’s works thanks to Charles Lang Freer, a prominent member of the city’s business community and Whistler’s greatest patron. The museum is also where as a grammar school pupil, Sutherland encountered Whistler’s work for the first time on a class field trip. Later that month, he addressed The Whistler Society at the London Sketch Club.

Sutherland continues to receive invitations to speak on Whistler and the book. He was featured at the Lincoln Book Festival in England on Oct. 1, was a guest on Ozarks at Large on Oct. 9 and will speak at the Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art in Bentonville later this fall (date to be determined).

Whistler: A Life for Art’s Sake is Sutherland’s ninth book and his first biography of a single subject. He has edited or co-edited six other books. Nearly all of them have dealt with the Civil War or 19th century American society. His 2009 book, A Savage Conflict: The Decisive Role of Guerrillas in the American Civil War won the Tom Watson Brown Book Award of the Society of Civil War Historians and the Distinguished Book Award, given by the Society for Military History.

(from left to right):
Cover: Whistler: A Life for Art’s Sake; "Arrangement in Grey and Black No. 1," commonly known as "Whistler's Mother" by James Abbott McNeill Whistler [Public domain], via Wikimedia Commons