



Media Release

Embassy of Australia
Office of Public Affairs
Washington DC

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
18 September 2008

Contact: Megan Dougherty
(202) 797-3237

Student ambassadors bring Aussie touch to US campuses

As you stroll around your local campus this fall, you may hear some Australian slang or notice a colorful flyer advertising a sausage sizzle or an Aussie Rules Football party.

Those quick glimpses Down Under may not come from Australian students studying in the United States, but from American students who recently returned from highly positive educational experiences in Australia.

Twenty-one outstanding American scholars were jointly nominated by their American and Australian institutions to serve as “student ambassadors” for Australian Education International (AEI). One Canadian student is participating in the program, representing Brock University in the Niagara region. They will participate in the program through May 2009.

The AEI Student Ambassadors will organize two events per semester that promote Australia’s unique and prestigious opportunities for study abroad. Events can range from exhibitions at study abroad fairs to Australian movie nights to presenting on graduate study in Australia. For example, SUNY Brockport Ambassadors Alex Matiash and Becky Morrissey are organising an “Australia Week” with their study abroad office.

Student Ambassadors were chosen based on the strength of their nomination from their American and Australian institutions, as well as a telephone interview. They must be organized, articulate, professional, passionate about Australian higher education, and have experience or an interest in event planning. Before embarking on the program, they gathered in Washington, D.C., for a briefing on their roles, responsibilities and AEI’s expectations.

“Student Ambassadors have a unique role to play in promoting the high quality of Australian education to their peers because of their first-hand experience studying in Australia,” said John Hayton, Counselor for Education at the Embassy of Australia. “We are confident that they will represent Australian higher education in the best way possible.”

A list of all AEI Student Ambassadors can be found on the following page. Please feel free to contact the Embassy if you would like to speak with one of the Ambassadors.

First Name	Last Name	Australian Institution	American Institution
Robert-Marlo F.	Bautista (Jr.)	University of Queensland	University of Southern California
Christine	Boecke	Queensland University of Technology	University of Vermont
Jessica	Brady	Deakin University	Mount Union College
Alissa	Breindel	University of Melbourne	University of California - Berkeley
Molly	Fagan	La Trobe University	University of Oregon
Jesse	Favre	University of New South Wales	University of Illinois
Brianne	Fenzel	Monash University	Loyola College in Maryland
Melissa	Fitoria	Victoria University	Florida International University
Nicole	Gates	University of Queensland	University of Virginia
Carey	Heymann	University of New South Wales	University of Virginia
Teresa	Izquierdo	Bond University	Belmont University
Whitney	Kropp	University of New South Wales	University of Florida
Chrissy	Lavery	Queensland University of Technology	University of South Carolina
Kerry	Leuschel	University of Adelaide	Indiana University
Alexander	Matiash	Swinburne	SUNY Brockport
Maggie	Miller	Griffith University	George Mason University
Rebecca	Morrissey	University of Adelaide	SUNY Brockport
Francoise	Nemorin	University of the Sunshine Coast	Towson University
Katie	Nicholson	Southern Cross University	University of Wisconsin Eau Claire

Ben	Sylvester	Griffith University	Brock University
Chanel	Viola	University of Melbourne	University of California - Santa Barbara
Brandee	Williams- Epes	University of Wollongong	Wheaton College