

# **MEDIA RELEASE**

**NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA**

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ATTENTION: Chiefs of Staff, News Directors

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## **Researchers to study in US with prestigious scholarships**

Two University of Tasmania researchers are heading to the United States to develop research into mathematical physics and climate change, thanks to the prestigious Fulbright Scholarship.

UTAS Vice-Chancellor Professor Daryl Le Grew congratulated the researchers, saying that the Fulbright Scholarship gives important opportunities to add value to their areas of specialty.

“It is especially relevant this year, as the Fulbright Scholarship has been hosted by UTAS in Hobart,” he said.

School of Mathematics and Physics lecturer Dr Peter Jarvis will spend four months at the University of California (Berkeley) and the University of Texas (Austin) looking at the role of mathematical tools in phylogenetics, the study of how organisms relate in evolutionary terms.

“With modern data sets comparing sequences from many genes over dozens of species; even our marginal improvements can provide a significant advantage. The visit to Berkeley is an opportunity to pursue these matters with world leaders in the field,” he said.

Tasmanian Institute of Aquaculture Research (TAFI) postdoctoral fellow Dr Gretta Pecl is also a recipient of the award and will spend four months at the University of Alaska.

There she will research how ecological modeling can be used to assess impacts of climate change on the productivity and sustainability of marine resources. She will use the Alaskan Red King Crab and Tasmanian Rock Lobster as case studies.

“Alaska and Tasmania are both ‘hot-spots’ for climate change with increases in ocean temperatures significantly above the global average,” she said.

The Fulbright Commission annually awards up to 25 Fulbright Scholarships for Australians to study in the United States. Fulbright Scholarships are valued between \$A25,000 and \$A40,000 and recipients are generally based in the US for 3 -12 months.

**Information Released by:**

**Media Office, University of Tasmania**

**Phone: 6226 2124/ 2691 Mobile: 0417 517 291**

**Email: [Media.Office@utas.edu.au](mailto:Media.Office@utas.edu.au)**