

## **'04 alumna receives Fulbright Scholarship**

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A long-term goal to become a curator of contemporary Indonesia art has led to fulfillment of a short-term dream for Fenna Mandolang of Alfred, a 2004 graduate of Alfred University. She has been selected as a 2005 Fulbright Scholar to Indonesia. Beginning this fall, Mandolang will be based for 10 months at Gadjah Mada University, Yogyakarta (central Java) completing a research project cataloging a number of contemporary Indonesian artists and their works. In addition to Yogyakarta, she will also travel to Jakarta and Bandung, both in western Java, looking at artwork, perusing written documentation, and meeting and interviewing artists during the first eight months of her stay. Mandolang intends for her project to form the foundation for her own future curatorial work. "The idea is to start a pool of knowledge. I'll make my own textbook," she said. The last two months of her residency will be used for the final stages of translating and editing. Established by the U.S. Congress in 1946, the Fulbright Program - named for the late J. William Fulbright, U.S. Congressman and Senator -- aims 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" through the exchanges of persons, knowledge, and skills. Sponsored by the U.S. Department of State, the Fulbright Program provides funding for students, scholars, and professionals to undertake graduate study, advanced research, university teaching, and teaching in elementary and secondary schools. It is the largest U.S. international exchange program. The daughter of a native Indonesian, Felix Mandolang of Florida, and Nadine C. Hoover of Alfred, and granddaughter of Sharon and Dean Hoover of Alfred, she has long been influenced by Indonesian culture, particularly when spending time with relatives in Jakarta, where she lived for a year as a youngster and has visited at least five times since. A graduate of George School (a Quaker boarding school) in Newtown, PA, Mandolang graduated from Alfred University with a degree in fine arts. She was inducted into Phi Beta Kappa, the national liberal arts honor society for academic excellence; and received the John C. Gilmour Award presented to the fine arts student who has done the most outstanding work in the disciplines of the fine arts major - visual arts, art theory, history, performance; and the Abigail Allen Award given annually to a senior student, faculty or staff member, and an alumna or alumnus, for contributing to the Alfred University campus and the community by "improving women's lives today and whose exceptional efforts deserve recognition." Mandolang has deferred acceptance into the master's in art history, theory, and criticism program at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. Her long-term goal is to become a curator in the United States of contemporary Indonesian art and to that end she also plans to earn a Ph.D. from Cornell University, where one of only two professors of Indonesian art in the United States currently teaches.