New Fulbright Scholar

Sept. 16, 2014

Volodymyr Tarabara, associate professor of civil and environmental engineering at Michigan State University, has been named a Fulbright Scholar and will conduct research on water quality control in the Republic of Georgia.

The highly coveted Fulbright grants are issued by the United States Department of State, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs to foster international academic exchange. It is the flagship international educational exchange program sponsored by the U.S. government and is designed to increase mutual understanding between the people of the United States and the people of other countries. Each year, about 1,200 U.S. scholars study in 155 countries.

Tarabara will spend five months spread over 2014-2016 in Tbilisi -- the capital and largest city in the Republic of Georgia, which is located on the southeastern edge of Europe. The host institution is the Agricultural University of Georgia. The project is in cooperation with a team from the Eliava Institute of Bacteriophages, Microbiology and Virology.

His research will focus on the use of bacterial viruses, called bacteriophages, as human virus surrogates in water quality control applications.

“Georgian researchers are considered to be among the best in the world in the science and application of bacteriophages,” Tarabara said. “At the same time, the country is in need of modern engineering solutions to ensure microbiological safety of its waters. I hope that my project will lay a foundation for a laboratory that would serve as a regional hub for water treatment research where engineers and microbiologists collaborate toward the common goal of protecting Georgia’s water supply,” he added.

Tarabara’s work can be broadly defined as water quality engineering. His areas of specialization include membrane separations processes and materials science of synthetic membranes. He is a member of the American Society of Civil Engineers, Association of Environmental Engineering and Science Professors, International Water Association, and North American Membrane Society. He regularly teaches graduate-level courses on environmental transport and unit processes.

Tarabara earned a PhD in environment engineering in 2004 and a master’s degree in environmental science and engineering in 2001, both from Rice University.
His other awards include the Paul L. Busch Award from the Water Environment Research Foundation in 2011; the John K. Hudzik Emerging Leader in Advancing International Studies and Programs Award at MSU in 2010; and the MSU Lilly Teaching Fellowship in 2009.

Fulbright Scholar Program
The Fulbright Program was established in 1946 under legislation introduced by then Senator J. William Fulbright of Arkansas. The program is sponsored by the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. The Fulbright Program awards approximately 8,000 grants annually to 1,600 U.S. students, 4,000 foreign students, 1,200 U.S. scholars, and 900 visiting scholars, along with several hundred teachers and professionals. Approximately 310,000 "Fulbrighters" have participated in the program since 1946.

Related Website: [Tarabara Research Group](https://www.egr.msu.edu/news/2014/09/16/new-fulbright-scholar)

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