



BRIAN VINCENT ENTLER
FULBRIGHT ACADEMIC AWARD TO
AUSTRALIA



For Entler, a Scranton resident for the past nine years, the Fulbright has been “a long time coming.”

That’s because he has applied three times, being named an alternate in 2013 and a finalist in 2014.

“Tons of scientists want to go to Australia,” he said, explaining that part of the host country’s selection criteria is always, “What is going to advance our country?”

He hopes his research into the brains of honeybees will do just that.

Working during the 2015-16 academic year with Andrew Barron, Ph.D., of Macquarie University in Sydney and collaborators at the Australian National University in Canberra, he will study how honeybees respond to stimuli and make behavioral decisions.

He likened the research to Pavlov’s dogs, calling it “a very similar paradigm.”

Entler and Dr. Barron will use a one-of-a-kind holographic bi-photon microscope to view the neural activity inside the bees’ brains in real time.

“The hope is to apply what we learn to larger mammals” and eventually human beings, Entler explained. The ultimate goal is to demystify the human brain.

“The brain is the last frontier in modern science,” Entler said.

Entler, the son of Kenneth and Theresa Entler of Commack, New York, knows well that what seems impossible is, in fact, achievable. His own life story illustrates that.

“I never actually wanted to go to college. It wasn’t in the cards for me,” he said. “I moved to Scranton after high school and did construction and worked in restaurants. One day, while laying a roof shingle, I thought, ‘This is not what I want to do.’ ”

He enrolled at Lackawanna College, where he earned an associate’s degree, and then at the University, where he earned his bachelor’s degree in neuroscience and biology and soon will earn his master’s in biochemistry. He has been accepted as a medical student at The Commonwealth Medical College, where he will enroll after completing his Fulbright research.

While a student at Scranton, he volunteered with the Association for Retarded Citizens of Northeastern Pennsylvania and the Knights of Columbus, was president of the Health Professions Organization, webmaster for the Scranton Neuroscience Society and served as a disc jockey for WUSR, the University's radio station. Since 2006, he also has served as a mentor for teens coping with drug additions.

A participant in the University's Honors Program, Entler also was a member of several honor societies, including Nu Rho Psi, the national honor society in neuroscience, for which he served as president. He earned the Ellen Miller Casey Award for Honors Research at the University in 2012-13 and the Excellence in Neuroscience Award in 2013. He also earned a President's Fellowship for Summer Research in 2012 and researched drug-seeking behavior and addiction in ants.

Before he begins his Fulbright research, Entler, who has conducted research and volunteered in Panama, Trinidad and Haiti, will spend two months in southeast Asia exploring multiple countries.

"It's time for one last adventure," said Entler.