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Chapman Senior "Power Couple" Both Win Fulbrights

The couple, steady sweethearts since high school, will graduate from Chapman on Saturday, May 19 and are preparing for a global (temporary) separation

Kelsea Ballantyne Will Study Plight of Women in India; Zach Bloomfield Will Study Effects of Economy on Young Men in Tunisia

Orange, Calif. -- Kelsea Ballantyne 07 and Zach Bloomfield 07, graduating seniors at Chapman University, have become the first two Chapman undergraduate students to be awarded prestigious Fulbright grants. Ballantyne, a business major who is also this year's Associated Students president, will use her Fulbright to head to Calcutta, India for a 10-month Bengali language-immersion program and to research globalization and its effects on Indian women. She previously visited India in 2004, where she participated in tsunami relief work and in efforts to extricate women from hopeless lives in Calcutta's infamous red-light district.

Bloomfield plans to study in Tunisia, where he will immerse himself in Arabic and French and research the process of economic development and its effect on young men in that nation. He studied in Tunisia last summer as part of an elementary Arabic language program funded by the U.S. State Department.

To make this story even better, Ballantyne and Bloomfield known as the Chapman power couple are longtime sweethearts, having started dating way back when they both attended high school in Idaho. Both students, who will be graduating on May 19 represent the best and brightest at Chapman. It's a tossup as to which one will win the highest senior leadership award the Gloria and Julian Peterson Award at Chapman's commencement ceremonies this Saturday, May 19. But in the end, it won't matter both Ballantyne and Bloomfield will be carrying the torch of Chapman global citizenship, leadership, service and values-centered learning out into the world.