



Institute of Development Studies
Sussex

Alumnewsletter December 2002

Message from Richard Longhurst, Chair, IDS Alumni Association:

Your Committee has been working steadily on a number of areas. We have been focussing on building the email address list and over the last six months we have increased the number of valid addresses from 58% to 69% (well, I wanted to get the quantitative measure of performance out of the way at the beginning). Thanks to all of you who have helped with this and the result of our increasing contacts with you is yet another impressive *Newsletter*. This still means that about one third of Alumni are not hearing from us and we ask your help in tracking down those for whom we have no contact point. Diane is always willing to send you the current list of your course group addresses and/or the full email directory for those willing to take on this task.

The other impressive achievement of Alumni over the last six months was the book of tributes put together for the farewell of Sheila Burgess in September. On your behalf I read out a selection of what you said, much of it amusing, some serious but all praising Sheila for the contribution she made to your lives and studies by her constant support and kindness. This personified institution building if ever I saw it. Sheila lives just around the corner from me and before too long I will see her and pass on her thoughts to you.

We are also planning another edition of an Alumni *IDS Bulletin*. This will be the third. There is a slot for January 2004 (copy date October 2003 – which is not long away) and we are inviting Alumni to send us proposals. This usually involves 2-3 Alumni commissioning articles from colleagues, of whom a fair proportion should be fellow Alumni. The proposal is then reviewed by the Alumni Committee and the IDS Information Team. Please note that you may have a brilliant set of ideas but if they are not 'marketable', or overlap with a recent or planned *Bulletin*, it may not be possible to accept your proposal. As you may know the *IDS Bulletin* aims to reach a broad audience. Guidelines and a list of recent *Bulletin* editions are available from the Publications Office and we would provide necessary liaison and support from this end. Could anybody interested in editing a *Bulletin* let us know by February 7th ?

We are making some progress over providing better support to graduating students by identifying work opportunities short and long term. Your help in this will be indispensable and I hope to say more in the next *Newsletter*.

To end on a personal note I have fulfilled a long time ambition to work for the United Nations in London, at the International Maritime Organisation. No more hopping on a plane to Geneva or New York for me, I just tumble out of the train at Clapham Junction to change for Vauxhall. If you feel that the Committee can help you with anything from Brighton, please e-mail us.... and meanwhile all the best for the festive season and the New Year.

Richard Longhurst (DP 81)

Report by Akio Takahara, (MP6, DP88), Alumni Representative on IDS Governing Body, following the GB meeting on 6 December 2002.

There was rich discussion over some important questions and the meeting went on from 14:30 to 18:00 without a break. Since I could not report to the Alumni Association Committee about the meeting while I was in the UK, let me introduce some points to you here. First was the space problem at IDS, which has now about 240 employees but its current facilities were designed only to accommodate 165. After a year and a half of deliberation and extensive examination of options, including the permanent conversion of some part of the accommodation wing into offices and renting on campus or in town, the Space Working Group and the Institute came to a consensus that they would recommend building an additional floor onto the existing octagon. They would only go into contractual obligation for construction in April 2004, after carefully reviewing their financial performance in 2002 and 2003. The building cost is estimated to be in the range of £1.2 to £1.4 million. Governing Body agreed this proposal.

Second, we discussed and endorsed the idea of a new MA in Participation, Development and Social Change, possibly with the first round to begin in Summer 2004. The third topic was the formation of a new editorial policy framework for IDS, which was regarded as necessary in order to establish a good balance between the need to protect academic freedom and at the same time protect the IDS brand and ensure the quality of communications in all forms that appear with IDS ownership. Also, an IDS work programme report from the Development Office was tabled. You may be aware that at IDS projects are now conducted by several Teams, including Environment, Globalisation, Governance, Participation, Poverty and Social Policy, Health and Social Change, and Information. The breakdown of the number of Fellows, and the number and value of projects conducted by these Teams, is available if you are interested.

The Governing Body saw two new faces at this meeting, Salil Shetty, Chief Executive of ActionAid, and Anne Marie Goetz, Fellow of IDS. For the full list of Governors, please refer to the IDS website. At the next Governing Body meeting in June 2003, I intend to make a report on the situation of the Alumni Association, and present to them what we can offer and where we would want assistance from the Governing Body and the Institute. If you have any good ideas, please do not hesitate to contact me, or Richard Longhurst, or Diane. Have a very good Christmas and a very happy New Year!

Congratulations to all IDS students who completed in 2002 and in particular to the following who were awarded pass with distinction:

MPhil Development Studies – **Carlos Aggio, James Allen, Andrea Baron, Shruti Chopra, Peter Clarke, Joanna Crichton, Janie Elliott, Niamh Garvey, Birgit Jacobsen, Li Kheng Poh, Barbara Pozzoni**

MA Gender and Development – **Edda Magnus, Luisa Orza, Jannice Vierkoette Bobie-Ansah**

MA Governance and Development – **Bolaji Abdullahi, Christopher Galvin, Omar Masud, Upneet Singh, John Virtue.**

DPhil News

DP 74

Peta Colebatch wrote: 'Since 1974 Hal and I have lived in Papua New Guinea, returned to Australia (Sydney and then Hobart, now back to Sydney), and I moved from lobbying work, to public sector administration, and then in the last ten years, to overseas aid and other consultancy work. I have worked in various countries including Bangladesh, Cambodia, the Philippines, Kiribati (in Kiribati), Tonga, PNG, the Solomons, Fiji and so on. We now head to Brunei next year.'

DP 82

Enrique Bautista-Villegas emailed to say: 'Since last February I have acted as Secretary for Planning and State Development of the Government of the State of Michoacán in México. The Governor is Lázaro Cárdenas Batel, son of former three times candidate to the Presidency of México (1988, 1994 and 2000), Cuauhtémoc Cárdenas, and grandson of Lázaro Cárdenas del Río, former President of México (1934-1940). We are trying to do a government with and for the people; democratic, not only in the electoral level, but also in the economic and social level. Our aim is that people participate in the definition of priorities and also in the act of governing. We are also looking to foster development with respect of the environment. I will appreciate to learn about experience of former IDS students in these matters. Anyone interested in our projects is

welcome to be in contact (bautysta@mich1.telmex.net.mx).'

DP 87

Charles Fortin ("that other guy") contacted us in September to say: 'After some 20 years of teaching, research, and consulting in Northeast Brazil, I left the Graduate Program in Urban & Regional Development at the Federal University of Pernambuco in Recife. In 1995, I joined the Inter-American Development Bank in Washington as evaluation officer in the Office of Evaluation and Oversight (OVE). Until a mandate change two years ago, I conducted mainly ex-post evaluations of Bank-supported projects in Latin America. These focused on the institutional, environmental and social effects of IDB operations (renewable natural resource management efforts in watersheds; and the environmental regulation and supervision of large-scale infrastructure investments) as well as private sector projects in energy and highways. (Along this line, if interested in the Latin American context, on the IDB/OVE website you will find a good practices book of non-Bank-supported projects - mostly by NGOs and other local associations, including indigenous - entitled: The Business of Respectful Exploitation - Good Practices in the Management of Natural Resources in Watersheds.)

More recently, I have joined project teams to prepare terms of reference for baseline and post-project evaluation studies, coordinated in-country capacity building for monitoring and evaluation, and collaborated with the Sustainable Development Department to assess Bank loans to strengthen environmental institutions. This latter is among the several studies pertinent to an update of the Bank's Environmental Strategy due for Board consideration in the coming months. Currently, I am involved with an evaluation of the Bank's strategy for information and communications technology.

Now for the good stuff. My wife, Adrienne, and I married in 1996. Shortly thereafter, my son Alex and daughter Julia arrived from Brazil for college at the University of Maryland, in biology and economics, respectively. Julia now works in finance at American Express and Alex is in his second year of a doctoral program in environmental engineering at Berkeley. Adrienne is an active real estate agent licensed in Maryland, Virginia, and in D.C. As many know, Washington is an exciting and beautiful place to live (it actually has four seasons). Currently, in accordance with our five-year plan, we are in lazy pursuit of a waterfront lot (well, perhaps water "view") along the Chesapeake Bay. Why? That's where the crabs are, at least for now.

I look forward to meeting up with old (as well as new) friends and colleagues on their visits to Washington.'

DP 99

Saurabh Sinha is now in Kathmandu as Head of the Poverty Monitoring Unit, German Technical Cooperation (GTZ).

DP 00

Steven Ratuva is currently a fellow at the School of Pacific and Asian Studies at the Australian National University (ANU). He wrote in August: 'I left Fiji 8 months ago after a stint as Assistant Head of the School of Social and Economic Development at the University of the South Pacific. I've opted to continue with academia since leaving IDS so that I can be my own boss. My research and consultancy largely deal with ethnic conflict, political instability and conflict resolution in the Asia-Pacific region. I'm thoroughly enjoying it. I travel quite a bit around the Pacific. I choose my own area of focus and do things at my own pace.

Canberra where ANU is located is the capital of Australia and is rather small but well planned. In fact it is one of the most over-planned cities in the world. It is also too formal. When you go to a pub, the only people you meet are politicians with their girl friends, civil servants, diplomats and academics. Almost everyone wears a tie. I never like ties but I've been forced to do so at times just to melt into the "crowd".

My wife Mere, who used to work at the IDS library part-time is now a community worker and our children go to a local school. They still have a very strong Brighton accent. If any of you is in Canberra, check me out.'

MPhil News

MP 2

John Samy emailed: 'From late January 2000, I have been based in Hanoi as Country Director for Viet Nam for the Asian Development Bank. Prior to that, I was assigned to Seoul, Korea to manage the ADB's \$4 billion Financial Sector Program, which was part of the "bail-out" program of support which IMF coordinated in the wake of the 1997 regional financial crisis that severely hit Korea. Here in Hanoi, the ADB has a portfolio of 30 projects totalling about \$2 billion plus about \$80 million in grant Technical Assistance. Each year we provide about \$240 million in concessional financing plus about \$8million in TAs to Viet Nam. We are the third largest ODA partner after Japan and World Bank.'

MP 3

Sarah Bartlett is now a Professor at Baruch College in New York.

MP 4

Ah-Eng Lai emailed us in July: 'After I graduated from IDS in 1981, I worked at the Housing and Development Board in Singapore, doing social and policy-related research on resettlement and

lifestyles of various population categories. One of the most satisfying outcomes of my four-year stint there was the policy acceptance of my recommendation for special housing needs of divorcees/separated with children in tow. My work also exposed me to issues of cross-cultural integration among the resettled populations in shared public housing settings, and this led me to work on them for a PhD in social anthropology at the University of Cambridge. I submitted my thesis on 'Meanings of Multiethnicity in Singapore' just two weeks before I gave birth to a baby girl, and subsequently published it.

Since then, I have gone through all forms of part-time and full time paid work and homemaking, trying to strike an effective family-work balance with two young children and one frequent traveller husband in tow. Yes, it is alright for women to take time off from full time work, it is no let down to the women's movement! In the last 10 years, I worked as oral history officer on older women's life stories, research fellow on Southeast Asian families, and added family concerns into my range of professional expertise. I am currently research fellow at the Institute of Policy Studies in Singapore and work on issues of multiculturalism and family policy.'

MP 6

Worku Lakew emailed: 'I am currently working in the environment field as a manager of recycling operations for municipal waste. I am the chairperson of a consortium which has won a five year contract from one of London's local authorities to provide recycling services and educational material to 80,000 households. I have already been doing that for two years in two other London Authorities. I am also involved in running the national network of community recycling groups of which there are about 400.'

MP 10

Tom Lines wrote to say: 'I have been offered (and more or less accepted) a one-year contract as a Policy Advisor on Trade & Investment at Oxfam UK, likely to start in late October. This will of course mean moving out of weird and wacky Brighton, but Oxford has many compensations too!

MP 11

Avril Joffe emailed: 'I own and run a small specialised consulting company focused on creative industries and cultural policy. After leaving London I took up a lectureship at the University of the Witwatersrand in Sociology and began an MA programme in the Sociology of Development. I shared an inner city apartment with **Moss Ngoasheng** (MP13) and loved my time teaching and consolidating all I had learnt at the IDS. I was also privileged to be part of a very successful project on industry strategy in the manufacturing sector with **Raphie Kaplinsky** from IDS and other SA economists. This project, together with the imminent unbanning of the ANC,

and my first baby, meant that there were too many distractions for me to focus on academic issues and a PhD so I decided to move into the private sector with a few friends. We focused on labour market policy, industry restructuring and labour relations with clients from government through to our large corporates and the unions.

My interest in the creative industries began with an 18 month assignment from our cultural ministry to develop a cultural industry growth strategy. I soon discovered that recording studios and film sets were a lot more interesting and complex than bottling factories or skills development for manufacturing workers. I have since worked on inner city regeneration projects using cultural industries, on the feasibility and planning for film offices (for **Glen Robbins**, MP17, who I didn't even know had been to the IDS until the last *Newsletter*), on researching the cultural sector for the ILO in the SADC region (for **Anne Posthuma**, DP92, section (IFP/SEED) at the ILO) and on developing countries' experience of globalization and the promotion and preservation of cultural diversity. Soon I will begin two very exciting projects, on delivering children's educational television to Africa with our broadcaster and the other with UNESCO in setting up a regional media centre for eastern and southern Africa. My company now generates all its income from cultural policy work and I can immerse myself in this fascinating and ever changing field. I am married to Roland Hunter (financial economist) who works for the City of Johannesburg, and we have three boys (Mitch 9, Gregory 5 and David 18 months).'

Janet Williamson works as a Policy Officer in the Economic and Social Affairs Department of the Trades Union Congress. She lives in London with her partner, Joe, and their two children - Reuben, 4, and Jacob, 2.

MP 12

Kate Meagher has been lecturing at Ahmadu Bello University in Nigeria and is now completing a DPhil in Sociology at Nuffield College, Oxford.

MP 14

Faizel Ismail updated us as follows: 'I am a graduate of the great IDS class of MP14 (1990-1992), which was supervised by two people I grew to love; the late Prof. **Gordon White** and **Raphie Kaplinsky**. Since then I moved back to South Africa and with Raphie's guidance worked on a number of trade policy projects for the ANC. The ANC succeeded in ushering in the new democratic South Africa in 1994. I then worked for the first Minister of Trade and Industry, Trevor Manuel, as his Chief Negotiator on Trade. In this capacity, I was tasked to initiate and negotiate a raft of trade agreements for SA: with the EU, the SADC, SACU and several other countries.

I have now (eight years later and with grey hair) been posted to Geneva as South Africa's Head of

Delegation to the WTO. I thought this would provide me with some space to read and write, away from the bureaucracy. Alas, I now have to participate in an endless stream of meetings to advance my own and developing country interests in the negotiations on the Doha Development Agenda. I am keen to renew my acquaintance and friendship with all those who shared many drinks and discussions with me whilst at Sussex, and of course to collaborate with any of the IDS Alumni.'

MP 15

Thomas Jørgensen sent the following message: 'Some news from a former student leading a "busy and interesting life". Having returned to Copenhagen in '99 after four years with the International Fund for Agricultural Development in Rome, as an associate professional officer, and consultant. I have since joined the "dreaded" private sector and works as a consultant/project manager with Carl Bro International, a major Danish consultancy company. I primarily work with project management, monitoring and evaluation, and capacity building on various types of projects, and am project manager on a regional African project on building capacity in hazardous waste management in South Africa. In July this year, my spouse gave birth to our son, Frederik, whom I will be spending two months of well-deserved paternity leave with early next year.'

Preeti Shroff-Mehta says her PhD thesis has been approved and the defense will take place in August. Her family is relocating to Washington DC where all IDS family members are welcome to visit them.

MP 16

Message from **David Kavanamur**: 'I am still alive, albeit ...just...as I am trying to complete a PhD before the end of the year, here in Sydney.'

Will Campbell works as the Communications Advisor in Catholic Relief Services' Strategy Support Unit. This is a team that integrates private sector organizational change methods into this 3000-staff international relief and development agency that works in 80 countries. In practical terms, it means he gets to facilitate numerous meetings and retreats that help diverse actors reach common goals. . .and he gets to crack a lot of jokes and is sometimes spotted playing Elton John songs in bars in faraway places.

MP 18

Mikiko Nishimura is leaving Global Link Management Inc., Japan, in August and moving to New York to pursue a Doctor of Education degree in Educational Finance and Planning in the context of international educational development.

MP 19

Joanna McGowan (née **Wilkes**) wrote: 'Well, despite Tara's protestations I did get married without her to disrupt it!!!!!! Joanna and Richard McGowan are now happily living and working in

Dhaka where I have the absolute pleasure of working with **Mahumuda Rahman Khan** (MA7). Between us we seem to inject some life to DFID Bangladesh...anyone who knows us will know what we mean by that!

MP 21

Alessandro Palmero is moving to Asmara, Eritrea, for four years as Economic Advisor of the EC Delegation from September 2002.

Silver Sewannyana wrote in July: 'I am now in Uganda working as an Executive Director for WINSOR CONSULT, a Development Consultancy firm. We are actively engaged in development consultancy work for NGOs and Government departments. Some of our recent work with Government has been in Decentralisation (capacity building for local governments), Participation, Participatory Poverty Assessments, Justice, Law and Order in Uganda. In the NGO sector we have done project, design, planning, management and evaluations. Our firm has so far offered two internships to IDS MPhil students.'

MP 23

Kemberley Haynes left IDS in September 2001. She had received a National Development Scholarship from the Barbados Government and therefore had to work for her country for the same period of time the studies took. She wrote: 'When I got home I took a break (you need one when the MPhil is over!) and then tutored part-time at our local university for a few months before obtaining a job offer from the UN (Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean). I am the Executive Assistant to the Resident Coordinator (RC). The RC is also the Regional Representative for UNDP and has responsibility for creating synergies among all UN agencies in the country/sub-region. Those in our region include UNICEF, PAHO, ITU, ILO and UNIFEM. In addition, I have had the chance to meet quite a few people in the UN system around the world and to forge friendships.'

So what do I do? A little bit of everything - I backstop the RC; conduct research and write speeches; monitor the RC system's budget; write proposals for funding and reports on meetings; and the list goes on. My substantive grounding in development issues has helped a great deal. I need to understand issues of poverty, HIV/AIDS, governance, ICTs for development, etc., - all of which are interlinked - all of which I was exposed to at the IDS.

I must confess that the two years were trying at times. I was very homesick and my first term paper was a bit of a disaster - thanks **Khalid** for that pep talk on the learning curve - it really worked as my grades can attest, although I later found out that you gave the same one to everyone who came to you for solace and advice. I think I got through the course because in addition to encouragement from family and friends, I had

support at IDS from great friends on the MP 23 course including **Vicky, Melkam, Farah** . . . and from **Angela Dowman**, our Course Administrator, and in my final year when I was working on (struggling with/loving and enjoying/hating/feeling disenchanted about/bursting with energy when writing) my dissertation, from my supervisor, **Hubert Schmitz**.

So good luck to you MP24s, who are probably now experiencing a great many of the emotions I felt this time last year! To the MP25s, hang in there - it gets better. I must say that the two years at IDS were well worth it. You will, like I did, wonder if what you learn there is relevant - it is; plus it helps that IDS is well-respected in development circles . . . so it looks great on your CV.'

Gemma Wilson-Clark is currently working as an Economic and Financial Analyst in the Public Policy Coordination Unit of the Prime Minister's Office, Mbabane. The position is through the ODI Fellowship Scheme. Gemma anticipates being in Swaziland for at least the next year.

MP 24

Alessandro Bini emailed to announce: '**Janie Elliott** and I have decided to get married!!!! So IDS will be responsible for having put together another couple. We are really very happy about it, although it is a very strange feeling. It's not going to be very soon, probably around the summer.'

Masego Nkeleang emailed greetings from Botswana - 'I am back home and life is fine and I am doing very well. It's warm, and dry here and I am enjoying the sun shine although sometimes it's a bit hot. But I am coping as I settle down. I had a great welcome. My family arranged a surprise welcome party, bought me a huge cake, and it was just fantastic to be with my beloved family again after such a long time.'

I am now working at the University of Botswana, directorate of research and development department as Education Outreach Officer, on a temporary position which will be a permanent appointment in the next few months. So I was very fortunate to get a job immediately on my arrival.'

Mizuho Okimoto was back in Japan for three weeks, between end September and mid-October to see her family and friends. It was certainly a pleasant season to be back in Japan, and she felt very much re-charged and refreshed! She wrote in October: 'I have now arrived in Florence, Italy, to take up my position at the UNICEF Innocenti Research Centre to work on a new project on children and armed conflicts. My contract is initially until the end of this year, but will most likely get extended due to the duration of the project which will continue onwards until April. I am very excited to be here at the Centre, sharing experiences with the staff and engaging in a very

interesting and important issue of children and armed conflicts.'

MA News

MA 3

Kemi Williams says: 'I did the MA3 in gender and since then have worked in development education in the UK and helped set up an African Women's NGO called ABANTU for Development. I then went freelance and eventually ended up working for the Ford Foundation in Lagos. I have been in Nigeria now for five and a half years, the last three and a half working with DFID as their social development adviser. I have also married and had a baby boy in the meantime.

MA 4

Joanna Kerr emailed us: 'I'm currently the Executive Director of the Association for Women's Rights in Development (AWID). AWID is an international membership organization and what we like to call a "professional development organization for gender equality advocates". This year marks our 20th anniversary, as well as our 9th International Forum on "Re-inventing Globalization". Supposedly some 1,200 women and men will converge in Guadalajara Mexico for a four day meeting of plenaries, workshops and lots of strategic planning. I know many IDSers will be in the mix. I'd love to hear from some of the other MAs (and they should be AWID members too...)' Contact: jkerr@awid.org

MA 7

Bridget Byrne has just taken up a post of Lecturer in Women's Studies at the Sociology Department of the University of Manchester.

Sharron Mendel works as an International Development Consultant focusing on women's rights, youth rights, and social change from the local level to the international arena. She is planning to return to her home state of Alabama to write a travelogue that will paint a modern-day picture 35-40 years after the height of the Civil Rights era, the heart of which will be a quest for people who are doing progressive and creative things to make a positive difference.

Monica Trujillo is now residing in Rome while she works on early warning and emergency preparedness with the World Food Programme.

MA 12

Gouthami is currently working with Concern Worldwide in the newest country in the world - East Timor. She writes: 'I must start by saying that I am the only Indian in Lospalos. The name Lospalos, is a Portuguese corruption of the Fataluku "La Pala" meaning "flat farms". Lospalos is the capital of Lautem district and occupies the snout of the crocodile shaped island. There is even a big lake approximately where the eye should be. The population of the district is around 60,000 people and that of the capital around 5000 people.

As you enter Lospalos after the curving roads from the coast, the flatness is what strikes you. Optimistically there is a sign that an airfield is going to be built as you enter La Pala. You drive in through its majestic meadows. There are cows and horses and you could be on farmland anywhere – the Downs of Sussex maybe! And then you enter the town. On either side are the ruins of the Indonesian offices. A sombre welcome that belies the true spirit of the town; the school, still being rebuilt and the market that comes alive on Saturdays. Finally the centre of the town. A traditional house has been built in what was to have been a cultural centre. It now remains for the Malays – foreigners – to exclaim about. Further down to the right, the hospital, which has the only doctor in the district. A little beyond and to the left is the main church, a traditional structure again. On Sundays the open space is packed with believers. The roads are not in good condition, but the streets are wide. Now we take a left turn to downtown Lospalos. At the roundabout is a smaller model of the traditional house. This street even has a cemented medium. On the left, all the houses have a veranda facing the street making for a continuous corridor to walk through. This corridor is usually occupied by betel leaf chewing women selling vegetables. They smile red smiles at you. There are no weighing scales. The veggies are piled in little heaps and all cost the same – tomatoes, onions, potatoes, ginger, turmeric, chillies. You can't take less than a heap – not even if you offer to pay for the whole heap. Further down the corridor are the three shops that sell EVERYTHING. The last stop on this street is a hotel with a restaurant. They sell the most delicious cakes in this part of the world. Here the street breaks off into five smaller ones. And there is a statue of a boy with a torch standing in the centre of the roundabout. Take a right there and you reach the police station – an impressive structure set far back, with both the East Timor and the UN flags flying in front. Right opposite is the house that I live in. Couldn't get safer than that.

The town is well spread out and is much larger than one thinks initially. Houses are not large and magnificent, neither are they small and crumbly – no slums or cramped quarters here. And they are surrounded by trees both flowering and fruit bearing. The concept of a fence or a wall does not exist. So people walk through your land to the house behind. Open and friendly.

Working days starts at 8 in the morning. What is that work you may ask? Well, it involves travelling in paradise, meeting people, mostly women, a lot of sign language, much more laughter and home by five in the evening. Five days a week. Days six and seven are given over to sleep and the seaside.'

Florence Itheme wrote to say. 'Up to nine months ago, I was the CEO of the National Centre for Women Development, where I had worked as the

Training Manager for about 8 years. The NCWD is a Research and Training Centre on Gender Issues and has a staff strength of 311.

I am on a two year leave of absence from the Centre and currently working with the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), which works towards economic development and integration of its 15 member States. However many conflicts in the area have largely prevented the achievement of these goals. The organization is currently setting up an EARLY WARNING SYSTEM and has engaged me as the Programme Manager. The EU is providing funding for the initial two years of the project, and the project has attracted a lot interest internationally. More specifically, the sub-region has been divided into four zones, with countries classed according to ease of communication, including language. So we have Zonal Headquarters in Cotonou, Banjul, Monrovia and Ouagadougou as well as an Observation and Monitoring Centre at the ECOWAS Secretariat in Abuja, from where I co-ordinate the System

We are still setting up the System, whose ultimate goal is to gather, analyse and report information in order to forestall the eruption of possible conflicts. It has been a very challenging and rewarding experience for me and I hope that our efforts will lead to the reduction of conflicts in the sub-region.'

MA 13

Varka Kozlovic wrote in July to say: 'I haven't been in touch with IDS since my graduation. I got a job as a project officer and gender consultant in a micro-credit project in Mongolia, implemented by the Italian NGO, Associazione per la Partecipazione allo Sviluppo. I am back in Italy now, looking for other opportunities.'

MA 14

Rebeca Eileen Zúniga-Hamlin sent in the following message: 'I am now working for an NGO called Exchange, coordinating a "Mapping Exercise" of organisations that work on Health and Communication. Exchange is a networking and learning programme on health and communication for development, hosted by Healthlink Worldwide and based in the UK. I am in Nicaragua, where I have a team of five people who are dedicated to work on health, communication and disability issues. The work being done here in Nicaragua/Central America is going to feed into the work that Exchange is doing with UK NGOs and with partners in Kenya/East Africa. It focuses on who is doing what and where, and what works in health communication. We are primarily concerned with identifying how lessons are being fed back into other work or activities on health and disability communication.'

Former Staff

Nigel Pullen sent us the following message: 'I can't believe that I left IDS 18 months ago now! I

try and get up to the University at least once a month, and usually start off in IDS meeting up with a few of the old faces. I am currently managing a bar and nightclub in central Hove, 'The Greenhouse Effect', and enjoying every minute. I am still editing websites, but my main involvement in computing now is putting money in the till!

I was privileged to assist behind the bar again for the IDS BBQ this year, and would like to thank all those who remembered me from the "old days" for their welcome. I am still in regular contact with **Nicky Pitman**, who worked in the IDS Library until 1994. She has recently returned to her role as Local Studies Librarian for Wiltshire County Council at Trowbridge after working around various local libraries for 18 months. Best wishes from myself and Nicky go to all the IDS alumni who know us.

I still remember a lot of those students who came to CATS for help with their "little" problems. The plaintiff cry of "I have lost my term paper off this disk" will never be forgotten.

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For information about the IDS Alumni Association, please contact the Secretary, Diane Frazer-Smith, on alumni@ids.ac.uk or check out the website: www.ids.ac.uk/ids/alumni/

A directory detailing email addresses of all Alumni who wish to be included is available from Diane on request. This is regularly updated. **Please let Diane know if you change your email address or know of any Alumni who have done so.** When writing, please also mention your course number or year.

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STOP PRESS!

Marcus Hayakawa, (MA Gov 01) graduated from the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst, on 13 December 2002. Marcus was awarded the Queen's Medal as the Officer Cadet who has achieved the best overall results in the military, practical and academic studies. He commented: 'I am in no doubt that my year at the IDS was fundamental in any successes that I may have enjoyed. It seems that I have been particularly fortunate to have joined the military at a time when ideas related to 'conflict prevention', 'resolution' and 'reconstruction' are equally important to the armed forces as well as those in development studies. I hope that this continues.'

Marcus has now taken up a commission in the Corps of Royal Engineers.

Many congratulations, Marcus, from all at IDS.