



Institute of Development Studies
Sussex

Alumnewsletter

June 2001

(Reunion Edition)

Message from Mary McKeown (MP14), Outgoing Chair, IDS Alumni Association:

Greetings all. Welcome to the 2001 Reunion issue of *Alumnews*.

Four years have passed since we set up the Alumni Association of IDS. The Committee has worked on several issues including getting an Alumni Representative on the Board of Governors of IDS, and facilitating the editing, by Alumni, of three issues of the *IDS Bulletin*, so far.

Our Committee has worked hard, and members have come and gone, depending on work commitments, family, moving house and so on. Those of you who will attend the Reunion will elect a new Committee, I wish them luck. It has been fun.

I moved to Ireland with my family in April this year. Brighton and Hove (a city now, by the way!) has been a wonderful place to work from, being close to IDS and the airport! I hope to maintain as much contact as possible.....

This Reunion promises to be a fascinating one. We have Robert Wade giving the Dudley Seers Memorial Lecture. Sessions at the Reunion focus on issues such as Globalisation, Governance and Sexuality and Development. Lots to think about, some controversy (we hope) and a sweeping away of cobwebs and outdated theories.

A big thank you to all the behind the scenes people who have supported the Association over the last four years, especially Diane Frazer Smith, Zoë Mars, Sue Ong and Ann Watson. We hope to see you in June, and if not, maybe you can make it to IDS to celebrate the next Reunion in 2005?!

All the best,

Mary McKeown

DPhil News

DP 81

Richard Longhurst has been working at the Commonwealth Secretariat in London for the last five and a half years as Deputy Director (Evaluation) in the Strategic Planning and Evaluation Unit. This work has involved managing, and in some cases, authoring evaluation studies on the Secretariat's work in the political, economic, and development cooperation areas. There has also been a lot to do on internal reporting and generating an evaluation culture through training and reporting. We have had some contacts with IDS (former Director, **Mike Faber**, is currently carrying out an evaluation study for us) but by and large we are always on the look out for evaluation consultants from any Commonwealth state. I have to commute every day from Brighton, a journey that can vary between highly fraught or the chance for a beer and a snooze.

DP 82

Tes and Alison Tesfachew are sorry that they couldn't make it to the Reunion and send their best wishes. **Tes** is still working as Special Assistant to the Deputy Secretary-General, UNCTAD (Carlos Fortin), in Geneva; **Alison** is heading Financial Resource Mobilisation with the UN Volunteers Programme in Bonn; and **Tessema** is completing his 2nd year at Strathclyde University, Glasgow, where he is studying International Business Management and languages (French and Spanish).

'So, we're still in commuting mode - now among three countries rather than two - and working in five currencies. We bought a house last year halfway up the Jura mountain in France - at the moment occupied by Tes. He discovered last winter the house is on the snow-line and that being an adept skier would prove rather useful! Since we're not convinced he'll manage this we have bought instead a mini snow-plough which churns up the snow and ice and shoots it out in all directions! Anybody passing through during winter can

come and help him! Our new address is 1123 Rue du Creux du Loup ("wolf's den" for you anglophiles) 01170 Gex France Tel: +33 4 50 41 40 73'.

DP 84

Clive Hamilton wrote: 'After leaving IDS, I worked as an academic at the Australian National University, as then as a civil servant where I began to specialise in the economics of the environment. After a couple of years in Indonesia, in 1994 I established a public policy research centre or think tank in Canberra in response to the tide of neo-liberal economic and social policies. The Australia Institute is now Australia's foremost progressive think tank. I have continued to write and publish with a book on climate change policy in Australia due out very soon and another on the 'Fourth Way' (the answer to the Third Way) underway.'

DP 85

Kimmo Kiljunen (and MP2) sends best regards and success for the Alumni Reunion. Due to his parliamentary work constraints he cannot attend the meeting.

DP 89

Mohamed Diab (and MP5) is unable to attend the Reunion this year and is disappointed to miss a lot of fun but hopes to be able to make it next time. He is being transferred to WFP Regional Office in Cairo at the end of May.

Edwin Irizarry-Mora wrote from Puerto Rico to say that unfortunately this year he will not be able to attend the Reunion. He sent the following message: 'My family and I attended the Alumni Reunion of 1997, which was really a very good experience. For the record, I am still Professor of Economics at the University of Puerto Rico (since 1989). I am finishing a book about the economic development of Puerto Rico, which will be published by International Thomson in May. I have also carried out research on Environmental Economics and have been Economic Advisor to the Puerto Rican Independence Party at the country's Senate. My wife, Elisa, as well as my children, Juliana (15), and Alejandro (13) are fine. We hope to see you soon, either in any future event or in the next Reunion at the IDS.'

Marta Zabaleta wrote to say: 'I am unable to attend this Reunion as I will be departing for California and Mexico on the 15 June. I will be having a very busy fortnight there, taking part in a conference, and touring universities where I have been invited to talk about my recently published book based on my D Phil gender and development research, 1989. I will be discussing plans for my theoretical and factional (SIC) work with members of the public, translator and prospective publishers. I will also be gathering support for the International Research Conference on Latin American Women I will organise next year, with the help of my Chilean daughter, Yanina Hinrichsen Zabaleta. It will be the fourth in a row, since I founded it in October 1995. So, a big thank you to all who helped me there, and all the best wishes for this Reunion.'

DP 90

Mohammad Shtayyeh, Managing Director of the Palestinian Economic Council for Development and Reconstruction (PECDAR) sent the following disturbing report on the destruction and demolition of roads in the West Bank and Gaza by Israeli Forces.

'On the morning of 7 March 2001 the Israelis, with the use of military bulldozers, demolished and totally destroyed the main road connecting Ramallah with a number of Palestinian villages (33 villages, 200,000 people) located at the north west of it including Birzeit university. The telephone lines, electricity, and water pipes were utterly obliterated.

The road was constructed by the PECDAR with aid from South Korea, OPEC, and the World Bank. The total cost of its construction was four million dollars. It is worth noting also that the road serves more than 10,000 students (schools and university) living in Ramallah and the north-west villages, and is the one and only connection leading to the main city (Ramallah) as well as hospitals and institutions.

PECDAR, as it condemns such inhumane actions caused by the Israeli authorities, calls for immediate alleviation of the closure imposed on that road as well as total rectification of the damages inflicted on its infrastructure. Similar acts of road destruction were also reported in cities and villages in the West Bank and Gaza. In addition to that is the blocking of roads (91 in the West Bank and Gaza) using cement cubes, which totally prohibits entrance to blocked areas, and the digging of huge ducts around certain cities such as Jericho, which also prevents people from going in and out of the city.

Any assistance that you might see appropriate will be greatly appreciated, especially at this particular time when the Israelis are obviously aiming at the complete destruction of the infrastructure of our cities and villages. Thank you.'

DP 94

Lucy Nichols regrets that she will not be able to attend the IDS reunion in June but sent the following message: 'Our lives have been non-stop change. I returned to my roots in 1998, moving with my husband, James Farquhar, from Washington DC to Boston, Massachusetts, to take a job as Policy Director for Oxfam

America in Boston. In October, we bought a small farm in need of renovation in Greenfield, New Hampshire. We have been commuting back and forth every week to get to our jobs. In March 1999, Benjamin Nichols-Farquhar was born. In June 2000, I downshifted at Oxfam to a part-time, research fellow post to have a better chance of keeping up with Ben and to spend more time in New Hampshire. Hope the last several years have been as wonderful for all of you.'

DP 99

Iman Bibars, Director of the Association for the Enhancement and Development of Women, a group spearheading the fight to rewrite Egypt's citizenship laws, was quoted in a front-page article of *The New York Times*, 13 May 2001, entitled 'Egyptian Mothers Fight for Foreign Offspring's Rights'.

Yukiko Yonekura cannot attend this year's reunion but 'I write a bit about myself so that I can keep in touch with those whom I know and I can share my experience with others. I was MP16 and I finished my DPhil in 1999 thanks to **Mark Robinson**, **Gordon White**, and **Robin Luckham** for their consecutive patience and supervision and thanks to their assistants and many other IDS staff. Oxfam International hired me to work in Japan as a liaison consultant from September 1999 up to now. My mandate was to do research on the Japanese NGO scene and to give suggestions to Oxfam. It was a preparation period for Oxfam to decide its activities in Japan. Since I respect Oxfam shops for providing warm clothes to foreign students to survive cold winter in England and since I saw Oxfam's being helpful to people in Cambodia, I did my best to inform them about Japan and to link them with Japanese partner NGOs. I also wanted to practice what I learned from my DPhil research on 'civil society and democratisation'. Since I want to work in the South, I will leave this post soon. Yet, a small group called 'Friends of Oxfam' is starting its work in Japan. Thus, please watch out for Oxfam's work in Japan! Those who are in Japan and want to participate or support Oxfam's work there, please contact oxfam@nyc.odn.ne.jp Those outside Japan, please contact Oxfam in your region. To cope with globalisation, NGOs are strengthening international networking. Thank you!

DP 00

Steven Ratuva wrote: 'Greetings from Fiji. I regret that I will not be able to attend the Reunion because of some prior commitment. I'll be out of the country at that time. I really wanted to attend to meet the old colleagues and discuss the great days at IDS. I'm sure that the occasion will be a success and send my deep wishes that it will be.'

MPhil News

MP 1

The depth of the IDS Alumni network was highlighted by visits of three participants of MP1 (1973-75!!). **Qazi Alam**, **Susil Fernando** and **Kimihiro Kaku** came to IDS (at different times in early 2001) and met with **Hubert Schmitz** and **Hans Singer**. **Qazi Alam** is now Cabinet Secretary of the Government of Bangladesh and **Susil Fernando** is Head of the Personnel Department of the Central Bank of Sri Lanka. **Hiro Kaku** has returned to Japan after working for many years in the Asian Development Bank and then EBRD; he is now Professor for Regional Development Studies at Itakura, Tokyo University. **Alan Leather** and **Alfredo Nunez Barriga** of MP 1 have confirmed their participation in the June 2001 reunion.

MP 3

Raimundo Florin is Executive Director of the Argentine BCSD, leading thirty business NGOs.

MP 8

Helen Dalton is not able to come to the Reunion this time but wrote to say: 'I have been in Tbilisi since September last year when I came to join my husband, Douglas Lackey who had already been here for 18 months. I am the community mobilisation/participation technical advisor for a large USAID project called the Georgia Community Mobilisation Initiative. Georgia is fraught with difficulties, a collapsed economy and a deteriorating security situation but we are loving the people, the culture, the food and the wine. Before coming here, I was in London for 18 months and before that in Bangkok for 6 years with the International Rescue Committee. Douglas and I met when we were both working for the African Medical Research Foundation in Nairobi in the late 80s and then spent a couple of years in Sudan in the early nineties. Unfortunately I have lost contact with all my MP8 classmates except for **Cissy Wallace** who we see every weekend when we are in London. Would love to hear from anybody and we have a spare room if anyone wants to come to Tbilisi.'

MP 9

Susan Fleck is unable to attend the Reunion but says: 'Since November last year, I am working as the Labor Attaché at the US Embassy in Honduras, on loan from the US Department of Labor for a couple of years. About half of my portfolio involves maintaining contacts with the Labor Ministry and labor unions. Some of this work is related to labor conditionality, i.e. assuring that minimum international labor standards are met, in US trade agreements with Central American countries. I completed my PhD in Economics in 1997 at the American University, with my dissertation covering areas of labor, feminist, and development economics. My

husband, Nery Duron, and I are enjoying being back in Honduras, where we first met in 1989 when I was doing research on women's labor force participation. Nery's family is from Honduras, and our four year old daughter Ana Maria is enjoying her many cousins here. Regarding Hondurans who attended IDS, I see **Ana Gomez**, who is now working for USAID agriculture programs, and we hear that **Breny Mendoza** is now coordinating a gender program at one of the University of California campuses. Friends in the region can give us a call at +(504)232-3228 or email us (susan_fleck@yahoo.com).

Roy Trivedy now works for DFID as Conflict Adviser in the Africa Policy and Economics Department. He returned to the UK with his family (wife Teresa; Kiran aged 6; Maya aged 4, and Asha aged 2) in May 2001 after working as Country Director for Save the Children (UK) for four years in India and then three years in Mozambique. He writes: 'I have kept in contact with several people from my year as well as some other IDS Alumni and am also regularly in contact with **Mick Moore** and **Robin Luckham** (the MP9 Course Tutors). **Donnacadh Hurley** (also MP9) and I have begun planning a reunion in Ireland for the summer 2002 (for MP9 and families ...and if there is space, for others). So if anyone is interested do let us know.'

MP 10

Bohdana Dutka wrote 'I am presently working at CIDA as the Country Program Analyst on the China and Northeast Asia Program. BUT I will be moving to Mozambique this summer and taking on a position as the CIDA Head of Aid. Life and work is going great, albeit busy. Hope to do some travelling in Africa while on posting so let me know if you can be found there. And of course, you are all invited to come and visit me in what I hear is beautiful Maputo! Unfortunately, doubt I will make it to the Reunion - too much work related travel this spring already.'

Dorothy Gordon wrote: 'I am currently based in New Delhi where I am working with UNDP as the Deputy Resident Representative. Immediately prior to my current assignment I worked in Ghana as an independent consultant with my own consulting firm. Before this I worked with the United Nations Volunteers and with UNDP in Bonn, Geneva, Lusaka and New York.'

As you can see with all this movement I am resolved to keep my Ghana e-mail constant so do drop me a line if you are coming to New Delhi. dorothyg@ghana.com My daughter is in college now and studying Finance. Warm regards to all.'

Mariko Higashi came to Washington DC three years ago to work at the International Finance Corporation, which is the private sector arm of the World Bank Group. She wrote: 'I manage some Trust Funds, i.e. get contribution from donor governments and spend it for technical assistance projects in IFC's client countries. These projects include feasibility studies, training programs, privatization advisory etc., all related to the private sector development. I therefore tend to go to donor countries in Europe and Asia on business to solicit funding (in fact I am currently in Tokyo to get more funding from the Japanese government).'

Prior to IFC, I was working in Tokyo for eight years in a quasi-government investment company, but the Japanese economy has been so weak for the last 10 years, particularly after the Asia crisis, that not much new and substantial foreign investment has been made by Japanese companies. It is a pity.'

Michael Hughes says 'I am sorry to say that we are not going to be in a position to go to the Reunion, family pressures to do other things are getting in the way. I hope you all have fun, however...'

I have recently (since Sept. 00) joined a rather large (for Finland) consulting firm called Soil and Water, Ltd. Mostly we are in environment and environmental engineering, but they wanted to beef up their economic/financial side and so have taken on a few like me. We are the odd ones out in this place full of engineers.

I guess that you have divined that we are no longer in Brussels. It was nice, but now it's over. We came here in Aug 00. **Laura (Torvinen, MP9)** has left Finnida and gone to the Min of Finance. Better placed there to influence things, you see. So we are back at our old laura.torvinen@pp.inet.fi e-address as well.'

William Lockwood emailed in March: 'I am working in venture capital technology investments, focusing on Life Sciences opportunities, and serving as executive director to a 10 year development plan for Puerto Rico for the government and private sector. I also serve as advisor to the Center for the New Economy, a private, non-profit, non-partisan, Puerto Rico corporation dedicated to developing economic development policies, and director of the Puerto Rico Community Foundation and Grupo GuayacAn, a venture capital group. My wife Candy and I are parents to Fernando and Bruno, fraternal twin boys who will be five years old this April.'

Suzuka Sugawara has returned to Japan after working in Vietnam, and given birth to a baby girl. She writes: 'I am dispelling stress from work through child-rearing, and stress from the latter through work....There is a tension and trade-off between them but both are indispensable for my 'self'. The experience of becoming of a mother is giving me a new insight on development, feminism and anthropology, and their relationship.'

Luc Spycerelle sent the following message: 'Greetings to all of you from me, my wife Diana and my 9 year old daughter Anggi. Since leaving the IDS, I spent most of the last thirteen years in various parts of Indonesia, even in a part that is no longer part of it - I originally came to Indonesia as a water engineer, but gradually shifted into regional planning, and I am now working in the area of support for decentralization, as a

local planning advisor on a GTZ-funded project. In December 2000 and January of this year, I had an opportunity to go back to East Timor for a few weeks, for some assistance on the shape of a future local government, a task I hope to stay involved with in the months ahead. In March, I also started to provide some assistance to the Ministry of Interior in Cambodia, for the drafting of a regulation for local development planning by the communes. I am scheduled to be back in Cambodia for a final visit in mid-June, so I will unfortunately not be able to join this 3rd Reunion. I hope to see many of you at the 4th Reunion though.'

MP 11

Antonia Bowring wrote: 'Sorry not to be able to make it to the Reunion. Very briefly (since I don't think I've ever given an update before), worked in non-profit world (World Bank, and then Women's World Banking) for several years after IDS, then did MBA, and since then have worked for management consulting firm/internetservices firm for past three years. It has been an incredible rollercoaster ride the past several months. We just finished 9th round of layoffs, and those of us that are left have just been hired by another e-services firm. Exhausted by the entire experience and pondering next steps.

On the home-front, settled in New York City for the time being. In fact closing on an apartment any day now - that really means I am committed to being here!'

MP 12

Tomoo Hozumi is currently working for UNICEF Tokyo Office as a Programme Officer, and his wife, **Machiko Kaida-Hozumi** (MP 12) is working as Vice Representative for an NGO called Japan International Centre for the Rights of the Child.

Kathrin Lartey (formerly **Bruchmann**) is happy for any of her fellow students to contact her if they wish. After four years of working in Personnel with the European Southern Observatory in Munich, Germany, she has been working with WHO in Geneva as Personnel Manager since February 1998. Kathrin would be pleased to serve as contact for possible internships or short-term contracts if the need arises.

MP 13

Ana Paola Teixeira wrote in January to send greetings to all. She is sorry to miss the Reunion and wrote: 'Many things happened in the past two years. I moved from Geneva to Chile in mid 1999. Some months later, following my second child's birth, I decided to leave McKinsey & Co. (management consultants), where I worked as engagement manager. Although I was leaving behind the possibility to work inside and participate in changing some of the most important companies in the world, I realized that it was more important to me to see my children grow up and be involved in that.

For some months - delightful ones, I must say - I stayed home taking care of the children. But some opportunities came up and I am now developing two businesses. The first one is a management consulting practice directed at government agencies and not-for-profit organizations. These groups, often rich in good intentions, tend to be lacking in managerial skills of various sorts (strategy, organization, operations, etc). So, by bringing together my two-fold background of development and management, I am adding considerable value to my current clients.

The second business is an Internet start-up in the field of personal organization. Our team is currently putting the final touches to the website and its wap counterpart. We are also fighting the first round of investment, trying to raise some risk capital that help us kick-start the business. That experience is helping me a great deal in terms of developing hands-on knowledge, furthering my leadership/managerial skills and keeping in touch with high-tech developments. That type of work has not really made me come across many IDS old-timers on a professional setting, but I had the pleasure to dine in Santiago with **Zav Rustomjee** (MP13), who was visiting on official mission from the Government of South Africa; **Angelica Gimpel** (DPhil), who currently works on human rights issues; and **Ricardo Lagos** (MP12), who works in the Chilean Foreign Trade Office. I now would be delighted to get back in touch with friends and, who knows, exploit some work opportunities. My e-mail is anapaola@vtr.net.

On a final note, **Andrés Marinakis** (MP12) continues with his career as labour economist in the ILO in Santiago, concentrating in the countries of the region. Our children, Teo (3) and Niki (1), are thriving!'

MP 14

Claudia Manning (and DP 97) is still living in Johannesburg, South Africa. She is working for the Development Bank of Southern Africa (DBSA) in the Private Sector Investments Unit, which provides finance for private sector companies investing in the infrastructure sectors in the Southern African region. She finds her work challenging and stimulating, despite having sold out by assisting evil capitalists intent on privatising the world's utilities. Her email address is claudiam@dbsa.org

MP 15

Michiko Iizuka is now back in Tokyo working as a Researcher at the International Development Center of Japan (IDCJ). Prior to this she had been working at ECLAC, Santiago, Chile, for three years.

MP 17

Nicole Lieger wrote in April: 'I am now working at the European University Center for Peace Studies (EPU), in Schläining, Austria, a romantic small village with an old castle, close to the Hungarian border. I am responsible for organising two post-graduate courses in Peace and Conflict Transformation, both in English, with faculty and participants from several continents, and an integrated approach to learning, including theory as much as practical and personal skills. I am still more than happy to be contacted by IDS people! (Email: lieger@epu.ac.at)'

Ruben Perez-Romo and Claudia are delighted to announce the birth of their son, Sebastian, on 18 February, 2001. Sebastian was born in New Jersey, USA and weighed in at 5 lbs. 12 oz.

MP 18

Costanza de Toma wrote: 'Unfortunately, I am due to be in Sweden for work on that weekend and will therefore not be able to make it to the Reunion. I am really sorry as I would have loved to come but I will certainly make time to come and see the Fellows at some time in the year. After four years in Brussels working at the European Parliament and then for Marie Stopes International as European Advocacy Manager, I have moved back to London. I am now working as European Policy Office for BOND (British NGOs for Development - the broadest network of NGOs in the UK with over 240 members) and can be contacted on cdetoma@bond.org.uk'

Mikilo Nishimura is unable to attend the Reunion but writes: 'After finishing MPhil at IDS, I worked for Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) as Associate Specialist on Human Resource Development for three years. During my work with JICA, I stayed in Uganda and Kenya for a year, and also travelled to various countries including Thailand, Bolivia, Nepal, Tanzania, and the Philippines. What surprised me most was that I met old classmates from IDS, **Marc** in Uganda, **Mavis** in Tanzania, and **Eva** in the Philippines, who were all working in those places!!

Having left JICA in February 2000, I am now working for a Japanese consultancy firm, Global Link Management, Inc., and have just completed a Poverty Assessment Study for Japan Bank for International Cooperation, which gave me a chance to visit Morocco and Tunisia. I am now involved in an education project in Malawi to support decentralised education administration and conduct district level education plan. I am really happy to see that what I learned from IDS has been vividly applied in my career but sometimes regret that I should have studied much harder! I hope to hear from other old classmates as well.'

MP 19

Tara John sent this message to MP 19s: 'Hello, I know that I have been impossible in communications but this is a promise to rectify myself. I have finally succumbed to technology and got the hang of email so this is a promise. My mailing address is: Tara John, Deenabandupuram (via) V.R. Kuppam, Chittoor District - 517 599, Andhra Pradesh. Email: taramasala@yahoo.com

Please keep in touch. Love, Tara

PS: Specially for Jo! Don't get married without me being there!!'

James Keeley is unable to attend the Reunion as he will be on fieldwork in Bangladesh. However he sent the following news: 'Since finishing the MPhil, I have moved from London to Brighton (strange but true) and been working as a researcher on environmental governance and policy processes at IDS (where?!). My time is currently divided between two projects. The first is on policymaking processes for genetically modified crops in China, India and Zimbabwe. This looks at how different interests and knowledge shape regulatory and science-policy processes. It is exciting for me as it gets me back to China where I was working before the MPhil - I'm currently trying to get my head round the biotech lexicon in Chinese - tricky, as it's complicated enough in English! The other project I am working on is on supporting policy change for sustainable livelihoods- looking in particular at fisheries in Bangladesh, and land management issues in Ethiopia and Zimbabwe.'

MP 20

Francis Hutchinson sent the following update on his work: I left UNESCO at the end of 2000, where I had been working since graduating from the MPhil in 1998. Since February of this year, I have been working with a US-based NGO called the Cooperative Housing Foundation (CHF) as a Program Development Officer. CHF is active in the areas of micro-credit, housing, local development, natural disaster mitigation, and provision of basic social services. They have implemented projects in some 100 countries. My duties involve developing ideas for new projects, and trying to obtain funding for them. I am based in Guatemala, but am currently seconded to the El Salvador office, as due to the earthquakes, the need for reconstruction work is enormous.

That is all from my end. I hope that you are doing well, and that the Alumni Reunion will be fun and as interesting as possible.'

MP 21

Stephanie Foerster sends greetings from Senegal where she is working for an environmental NGO called GREEN Senegal (no political affiliations) as Communications Officer. She writes: 'Since the MPhil I did research on the philosophy of environmental organizations in the States and also worked for the Chicago Empowerment Zone, a federal poverty reduction program that tries to appease low-income communities and the Mayor simultaneously... Since my arrival in Senegal I have been confronting all of those IDS development conundrums we used to debate - and am still debating them. My work involves participatory communications research, natural resource management, environmental protection and environmental advocacy among other things. If anyone would like to get in touch my email is spfoerster@hotmail.com.'

Jerome Sigamani is unable to come to the Reunion but sent his good wishes for the success of the meeting. He is working with an International Catholic Migration Commission concerned with refugees and migrants in South Asia. He coordinates the Geneva based organisation for South Asia and would like to contact Alumni working with refugees and IDPs.

Liz Stewart sent the following message: 'I am sorry but I will not be able to attend the Reunion this year. I hope that you all have an interesting and profitable time. I am sure that it will be a good opportunity to restore old contacts and to establish new ones.'

As for my news, I have been in Laos (SE Asia) since mid-September 2000 predominantly doing language study in the capital. So far I am really loving being here. For the last few months I have been living with a Lao family which has helped me to adapt to the culture and to pick up the language more quickly. I hope to move up country to start work with a community development project in late June. I will be working with a Christian NGO called World Concern. If any of you are in the area please come and visit!'

Monica Trevino-Gonzalez unfortunately won't be able to attend the Reunion, but will be there in spirit. She writes: 'I'm currently in the second year of my PhD in Political Science at McGill University in Montreal, Canada. It's been a long hard slog of taking yet more courses and writing yet more papers, while doing some RA and TA work in the department (and I now understand why it takes so long to get graded papers back). The reason I can't make it to the Reunion is that I will spend the summer preparing for my Comprehensive Examinations in September/October. I have finally secured a supervisor for my thesis, and so I hope to be embarking on my fieldwork in Brazil, Trinidad & Tobago and possibly Guyana, some time in 2002 (hopefully while it's winter over here). The system over here is a bit weird compared to IDS, no two PhD students are quite in the same programme, and although you get an "academic advisor", I haven't really seen mine since I got here - there is no real personal relationship involved at all. Not to mention the fact that I have had to take eight courses in order to be allowed to present my research proposal. The general approach is a lot more "traditional", and it is very much state-centered. A major change was also the nearly absolute silence regarding gender and environmental issues. All in all, however, I have enjoyed most of it.'

My non-academic life has been somewhat limited over the past few months, due to a combination of a long and snowy winter and a pretty serious workload. However, I encourage anyone who hasn't been here before to come over and get acquainted with a wonderful city, with excellent summers (yes, we do get to see the sun for more than two days a year) and huge amounts of fun activities, with a number of free (and nearly free) events, including a jazz festival, a comedy festival and a (not so good) baseball team. As you can probably tell, I'm loving it here, so much so that I am in the process of applying to become a permanent resident. Anyway, greetings to all those who will make it to the Reunion; have a great time.'

MP 22

Reetika Khera is unable to attend the Reunion owing to the financial constraints of an Indian salary! She says: 'Its difficult to say concisely what I'm doing. I'm RA-ing with Prof. Jean Dreze, who is currently working on a book which deals with various development issues in India - health, education, environment, democracy etc. Besides that I'm also working with a group of independent researchers who are looking at issues around adolescent education.'

Nathalie Ikuko Natori wrote: 'I am well and healthy in Luanda, the capital of Angola. I arrived here end March, via Paris, surrounded by macho-American oil workers - they come from Houston, and I heard that the Air France flights between Paris to Luanda are always packed with them. This country, Angola, is potentially one of the richest with oil and diamonds on the African continent, but because of the unstable political situation, etc. (of course not only political, it is all very complicated now), it is one of the poorest and the most miserable countries, I would say. If I have to choose one word to describe this, it is madness. Some people get killed, children kidnapped somewhere (especially in the countryside) every week. WFP reports these accidents weekly. It is also very ironical that we rely on imported food, in this fertile land of Angola.'

Yet, Luanda is safe, and my life is one of those working in the office from Monday to Friday. So far it has been fascinating to know the UNICEF operation here in Angola. I work as Assistant Programme Officer for the Health Section, mainly in charge of administrative side of the operation, i.e., budget monitoring, report production, logistics, etc., for which my five-year working experience in companies helps me a great deal. However, all the studies at IDS help me tremendously to understand UNICEF projects, and to locate my work and UNICEF in the global context. I truly enjoy working here, and later on, I would love to go to the provinces and see more of Angola.

I am sure that you all enjoy early summer season. It must be very nice to stroll around the town, feeling soft breeze on the face. That is one thing I miss. Strolling around the clean and pretty streets without worrying about security...'

Melanie Speight sent in the following news: 'Since October 2000, I have been working as a Fast Streamer (a form of junior professional officer) in DFID. I am currently working on EU assistance to Central and Eastern Europe and the Balkans. I will change jobs each year and hope to work on African PRSP processes next year and in Kampala the two years following.'

MA News

MA 2

Joyce Yu wrote in December: 'I am currently Deputy Resident Representative in Malaysia for UNDP, covering Singapore and Brunei as well. The nature of my work is comprised of formulating development programmes or projects in response to government needs and priorities; advising government entities on specific areas of policy including gender; supervising the Country Office and Common Services to the UN system; representing the Secretary General as needed. In order to do the above, I have a programme and administrative staff plus international project personnel. We work with some NGOs whenever possible and more recently quite extensively with the private sector under the South-south cooperation and other means. For the next year or so, I will be working on south-south cooperation (Asia-Africa business investments); ICT and development including a mobile internet boat for interior Sarawak and rural telecenters for the poor; environmental management projects in climate change and biodiversity.'

MA 4

Joanna Kerr sent the following message: 'Dear friends at IDS. I have yet to make it to an Alumni Reunion, but I live in hope. There is a remote chance that I'll be passing through Europe en route to Africa around those dates so just maybe I'll be there.'

As for my news, I am now the Executive Director of the Association for Women's Rights in Development (AWID) - formerly known as the Association for Women in Development. AWID is an international membership organization committed to gender equality and women's rights around the world. We have very recently opened up a Secretariat here in Toronto (we used to only have an office in Washington DC) and are currently recruiting program managers to be based in the Global South. My work email is as follows: jkerr@awid.org. Hope to see you soon!'

MA 5

Malini Mehra has fulfilled a long-standing dream and set up an organisation to promote corporate social responsibility and public accountability from a human rights and sustainable development perspective. The Centre for Social Markets (CSM) currently has offices in India and the UK and focuses on the domestic private sector in developing and transition countries. Before founding CSM, Malini was director of a human rights education NGO and prior to that policy adviser on trade and investment issues for Oxfam and campaigns coordinator for Friends of the Earth International. Most recently Malini had the pleasure to serve on the advisory board for the Human Development Report 2000 chaired by **Richard Jolly**. She would love to hear from IDS Alumni/Fellows working in related areas. Email: malinimehra@aol.com

MA 7

Sharron Mendel wrote: 'I sure wish we could be there to be a part of what will no doubt be a wonderful reunion. Instead, I am sending news, an invitation, and a request for friends to get in touch.'

First, the news: **Will Campbell** (MP16) and I have been living in the Washington, DC area for 4.5 years now. It finally feels like we've got a strong community here - it helps that we've found ourselves living in a part of town where every other house is home to artists or musicians, so there are plenty of opportunities for making music! (For those who are curious, we don't have any children, just two dogs!)

On the work front, I have been working as an independent consultant since January of this year. I left AWID, now the Association for Women's Rights in Development, after four years there and took a leap off into the great unknown. The unknown has fortunately been filled with fantastic people and interesting work - on gender and trade, young women's leadership for young women's rights, capacity building, women's leadership and good governance in Central America, and more.

The most fun project is something called the Hot Spot Program. For this, I am working as a community organizer in an area called the Maryland International Corridor - which is about five minutes from where we live. This is a community development program sponsored by the Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention, with the goals of reducing crime and the fear of crime and improving quality of life. I am part of an international team that is conducting a "participatory social services needs assessment." The area is 65% Latino and there also are many immigrants from West Africa, Ethiopia and Eritrea, Vietnam, and other places.

I am working towards getting overseas for short to medium term assignments, and am particularly excited about a possible plan to spend 3 months working in Central America at the beginning of 2001. Each day convinces me that the MA has an increasing marginal utility curve, because the longer I am away from it, the more valuable I realize it is (or maybe, the more I begin to realize what it was all about!).

Will has been working as the coordinator of the Africa Group at Catholic Relief Services, up in Baltimore. Over the past couple of years, he has been carving out a niche for himself as an in-house facilitator, and has travelled to South Africa to facilitate an AIDS assessment, Ethiopia and Zimbabwe for Strategic Planning visits, and has visited CRS projects in Congo (both Kinshasa and Brazzaville) and Angola.

Over the past year, we have had contact with a few IDS folks. Last August, we had a great time at the wedding of **David O'Brien** and **Zoë Oxaal** up near Hull. There was quite an IDS contingent, including **Dylan Hendricksen**; **Sam McPherson**; **Glen, Lucy, and Matthew Robbins**; **Jeremy Armon**; **Bridget Byrne** and **Khalid Navdi**; **Pauline Rose**; and **Dominic Furlong**. We've managed to see **Sally Baden** a few times, between her visits to Washington and our visits to Brighton, and we're hoping to be able to go visit her in Senegal soon. At Christmastime, we had brief visits with **Ann Marie Goetz** and **Max**; **Carl Jackson**; **Kay Sharp**; **Judy Pointing**; and a few others. Recently, **Mark Kenber** came to stay, and **Will** met up with him, **Ian Scoones**, and **Andrea Cornwall** on his way to Zimbabwe a couple of weeks ago. **Mark Adams** recently married in Scotland, and **Sheila Thomson** is getting married soon. **Sheila** is also the proud mom of a beautiful baby girl. This summer I'll be visiting **Dolores Garry** in the South of France.

Here in Washington, we know there is a critical mass of IDS folks, and we keep meaning to host a get-together at our house. We'd love to hear from the following people if they are around: **Robin Mearns** and **Ann Hudock**, **Jason Ward**, **Ulrich Bartsch**, **Liz Carty**, and **Marzia Fontana**. Of course, we'd love to hear from other IDS people who might be in Washington, too! Which brings me to the next part. . .

The invitation: please come see us when you are in Washington. We have a guest room that is there to be used (as long as you are not allergic to dogs), and we love giving people a welcoming place to stay when they've got to come to town for meetings at the World Bank or IMF, with local NGOs, or whatever. Here's where we can be reached: **Sharron Mendel & Will Campbell**, 6801 Woodland Ave., Takoma Park, MD 20912, Tel: 301-270-7427, e-mail: mencam@mindspring.com

And finally, the request: we'd love to hear from people, especially other MA7s and MP15 - 17s. It has been such a long time since we have heard news from many of you and we would love to hear what is going on. So please e-mail, write, call, or visit!

MA 8

Sonomi Tanaka is Social Development Specialist in the Office of Environment and Social Development at the Asian Development Bank in Manila.

MA 9

Amira Osman has made contact again after two years in Botswana, Sudan and Saudi Arabia. She has now returned to the UK to do a PhD at the Peace Studies Department, University of Bradford.

MA 11

Ruth Ayarza will not be attending the Reunion as unfortunately it is difficult to get the time and money to reach Europe from Ecuador where she is working in Corporación Kimirina. This year she is in charge of starting advocacy work. They are doing a study on the impact of HIV on the quality of life of individuals in Ecuador and once they have the results want to make the situation of people living with AIDS in Ecuador more visible.

MA 12

Florence IHEME sent the following news: 'On my arrival back to Nigeria, I became involved in writing fortnightly for one of the weeklies here, *Abuja Today*. This was generally on issues in GAD. Then I went to the USA for a three week internet course for women's organizing and have been able to run a similar course for media personnel who report gender issues. Another fallout of that programme is that I submitted my IDS thesis to the Michigan State University, organizers of the programme, and I am now amending it for publication. I am also writing a chapter for a book on Institutional Mechanisms for gender concerns in Nigeria - I actually just presented a seminar paper on the issue!!

Currently I am conducting a country study for the ILO on migrant workers, including trafficked persons. This is part of a 12 country study from which the ILO hopes to publish a "Best Practices" kit. I am preparing a Public Policy Forum for members of the House Committee on women affairs and youth development - this is the committee of the Lower House of Assembly which oversees issues relating to gender. I regularly engage in fora which articulate plans of action for womens' political participation. Given the coming elections in 2003 and the low level of participation, this is an important topic for me and that was why I also chose it for my IDS thesis.

Following a national colloquim on genderizing our constitution, I am currently seeking funding to run nationwide Legislative Advocacy training so that women will be able to convince our state and national legislators on the need to adopt a gender-sensitive constitution (its review is ongoing). Lastly, I continue to run vocational courses for the economic empowerment of women and some men who come. Right now, I have about 315 people learning seven different skills.'

Ara Stielau is working as a gender advisor for a German development organisation (DED) in Niger, West Africa. Her work consists of giving gender advice (analysis, planning, training) to the German development workers and the local organisations they work in as well as (net-)working directly with womens' organisations under the capacity building programme.

MA 13

Gemma Smith wrote: 'I'm sorry that I won't be able to attend the Alumni Reunion this year. At the moment I'm in Zanzibar, Tanzania, working for a local NGO called Women's Development For All. The NGO provides vocational training for young Zanzibari women and also supports a network of grassroots women's groups. I'm working with those women's groups, assisting them to set up their chosen development projects, and also generally assisting with the day-to-day running of the NGO.'

For information and an application form to become a Life Member of the IDS Alumni Association, please contact Diane Frazer-Smith: j.d.frazer-smith@ids.ac.uk or alumni@ids.ac.uk

A directory detailing e-mail addresses of Alumni who are now on e-mail is also available. This is regularly updated and available from Diane on request. **Please remember to keep her informed of your current email address and contact details.** When writing please also mention your course number or year.