



Institute of Development Studies
Sussex

Alumnewsletter

June 2004

**Message from Richard Longhurst,
Chair, IDS Alumni Association:**

Dear Alumna/Alumnus

Welcome to the June newsletter.

The first thing to say is that we have been discussing a communications 'policy' as we want to enhance your opportunities to network but don't want to send you *ad hoc* emails through the year. But at the same time there is more information being generated which you might find useful. Therefore we are going to try four Newsletters a year and avoid one-off emails unless really necessary. The Newsletters of June and December can remain where you share news. In general Alumni Newsletters will not provide news about IDS as we suggest that if you want to know what is going on you subscribe to the email version of Yellow Monday. For other information we believe you will find useful we will introduce short newsletters in March and September. These additional Newsletters may be of value to alumni who do not wish to share personal news but would still like to ask for alumni help or publicise work activities in some way (as Ibrahim El Nur (DP88) has done in this newsletter). I am sure you agree this sort of communication should be encouraged and I am glad that Ibrahim has done this. The added frequency will help in this, but let's see how it goes.

But there remain two problems. The first is that it relies on access to email and internet and us having your email address, which means that currently about one quarter of alumni do not hear from us at all. With the September newsletter we will send a list of those alumni for whom we do not have email addresses. May I ask you to look down the list and, if you are not able to supply email addresses, please give us any scrap of information that may help us locate these 'lost' alumni. The second problem is that communications would be better if the website was more active. Although there are several things we can do as alumni to improve our area of it (and which we will now do), much of this still depends on a total revamp of the system by the Institute which will take place within the next twelve months.

There is progress to report on the commitment made to help students with advice and networking on jobs and careers. With the support of the teaching area I have given two sessions to MA Gender and MPhil students who provided much useful feedback that will form the basis of a document that can be put on the website, and built on in future years. Also, the Director and Rosalind Eyben talked to MA Gov students on similar topics.

We are all looking forward to working with the new Director, Professor Lawrence Haddad, who comes to IDS with a host of relevant experiences and interests and I welcome him to IDS on behalf of the worldwide network of alumni. We also wish Keith Bezanson the very best in all he does from now on – and maybe look forward to working with him in different ways in the future.

Finally I hope that you will come to the Reunion, scheduled for 14-16 April 2005. More of that in the September newsletter.

Richard Longhurst (DP 81)

JUNE 2004 GOVERNING BODY MEETING

As you may know the Governing Body (GB) meets twice a year. There were two main issues in this June's GB meeting: the Director's Report, from Keith Bezanson who has now retired after seven years, and an IDS strategic review promoted by Professor Lawrence Haddad, the new IDS Director.

The Director's Report outlined three main issues for IDS in this period marked by great uncertainties due to changes in policy research. The first is that social science research is increasingly intertwined with policy-making and this encourages research partnerships, joint research agendas, and wide dissemination, but with the need to preserve traditional rigour. Other factors IDS needs to take into account in this area are the way and speed with which institutions take decisions, new research methods, the shortening of cycles of theory formulation and verification, the growing importance of networks as organisational bases and the new opportunities offered by the Internet. In that respect it is important to note that IDS has again pioneered and led in a new context. IDS websites have 150,000 visits a month (or 1 every 6 seconds!!!), its publications have 50,000 subscriptions worldwide and the department employs 55 people. Congratulations to the Information Department!!!

The second issue is the transition from partially secure to totally uncertain financing. Surprisingly to many, IDS has done incredibly well. In 1998 the future was gloomy with unsustainable financial losses. Against all odds, the Director, backed by the GB and the Fellowship, put together an aggressive counter-cyclical plan that was to put IDS on a solid footing to compete in the global market of policy research. In seven years,

finances doubled, staff increased by 40 per cent and £2m. were added to reserves. Today, IDS employs just over 200 hundred people, of whom 90 are researchers and 50 communicators, and has an operating budget of £11m., which is expected to rise in 2006 after a £1m decline in 2004, due to the IDS business cycle.

The third is the emergence of a new decision making structure necessary for the new environment characterized by uncertainty. The new management structure needs to be characterised by 'agility, responsiveness and real-time decisiveness' in Dr Bezanson's words. Though there are some minor concerns, IDS prospects are very good. The transition to Professor Lawrence Haddad has been so seamless that he is already working on a quick but thoughtful strategic review of IDS to achieve a more shared understanding of how the world is changing, to make sure IDS covers the right issues and to find the right balance between research as the foundation of IDS, advisory work, communication and teaching, an area that many of us would like to see strengthened, along with training.

In this his last GB meeting, Keith was warmly thanked and congratulated by everyone. All surviving IDS Directors (Professor Sir Richard Jolly, Professor Mike Faber and Professor John Toy) together with Professor Sir Hans W. Singer and many other guests attended the farewell dinner hosted by the ever supportive Professor Alasdair Smith, Vice-Chancellor of the University.

It would be totally unfair if I finished these lines without thanking Keith again for the support he gave to the idea of our Association when Mary McKeown, Nicholas Georgiadis and I went to see him just before our second Reunion in 1997. Hasta siempre!!!

Kim Tres (MPhil 14), IDS Alumni Representative on Governing Body.

IDS alumni in Ethiopia- 'Alive and Kicking'

Coming to work in Ethiopia I was reminded of how great it is to be part of the IDS network. I felt most welcome when I realized that we are a whole bunch of alumni here, and such a lovely group indeed!!! On the website there is (or soon will be) a photograph of what we call the 'Sussex Connection', including:

- **Asegedesh Beyene**, MA12, now working for the World Food Programme as gender consultant; asegedech.beyene@wfp.org
- **Yoko Harada**, MA8, now working for the United Nations Development Programme on food security and gender; yoko.harada@undp.org

- **Menywab Assefa**, MP22, now working for a local NGO coordinating several development programs; menywabbb@yahoo.com
- **Fetenu Bekele**, MA3, now development consultant working on New Development Perspectives; fetenu@hotmail.com, fetenu@telecom.net.et;
- **Melkamnesh Alemu**, MP23, now working for DFID as food security officer; m-alemu@dfid.gov.uk
- **Maite Irurzun-Lopez**, MP22, working at the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, but moving to South Africa in August 2004; maiteirurzun@yahoo.com
- **Yuka Fujino**, MP23, after being for two years with us, she's now with the Japanese Embassy in Ireland; yukafujino@hotmail.com (she's missing in the picture)

Some of us knew each other when at IDS, and some faces were new, but it didn't matter as it made no difference when we graduated. Personally, I felt that we all got along so well; our minds and hearts 'talk to each other'. And it is funny to see how this good connection exists in spite of our busy, busy lives. You have to picture us all, together, agendas in our hands, trying hard to find a convenient day and time for all; it takes more fluttering than finding Nemo!!

What do we talk about? Well, a bit of everything: our personal lives, our work, Ethiopia's news and issues ... We move from one topic to another carried by the excitement. What is always present is a joyful spirit and an open mind. It is one of those great moments in life where all souls talk to each other and conversation flows in harmony, and touching on very important issues ... and then we carry those words and smiles with us for some time. I'm sure I'm going to carry them when I leave.

If you ever have the chance to come to lovely Ethiopia, don't even think about it, give us a call !!! Let us welcome you !!

Maite Irurzun-Lopez (MP22) on behalf of the Sussex Connection in Ethiopia

DPhil News

DP 81

Jayantha Perera wrote: 'I have recently moved to the Philippines as I have joined the Asian Development Bank as the Social Safeguards Specialist in the Regional and Sustainable Development Department. In this capacity I cover both resettlement and indigenous people.

Also my new book, "Irrigation Development and Agrarian Change: A Study in Sindh, Pakistan" has been published recently by Rawat Publications.'

DP 88

Ibrahim El-Nur is Associate Professor of Political Science, American University in Cairo and Director of the Office of African Studies. He has asked that news about RWCMEA (a network of collaborative research on reconstruction of war torn communities in Africa and the Middle East) be publicised in this Newsletter. (See article on page 7).

DP 89

Marta Zabaleta wrote in January to say that since 2001 she has been in charge of coordinating the activities of a Permanent Working Group; of CEISAL (European Research Council for Latin American Studies). This is a network with more than 200 experts working on 'Gender: women, men, girls and boys as agents of change from all over the world'. She also founded and coordinated another network: 'Women, Men and Words in the World', which meets every year in a different capital. Marta has now retired after 13 years of teaching at Middlesex University where she enjoyed an honorary position.

DP 90

Surendra Vettivel wrote: 'I have been in the consulting business since I returned from the IDS, and set up a small consulting firm in 1996. I started working for various multi, bilateral funding agencies as a resident consultant which also involved scouting and hiring consultants to do various studies. Seeing their inadequacies, I shifted to the other side and became an independent consultant myself, and later set up a consulting firm. In the early years, I had a field day, no competitors. But now the field has become overcrowded mainly with the spouses of resident diplomats and senior government servants who use their "contacts" to get the work. The work is very interesting and very challenging.

Writing a doctoral thesis (especially at the IDS where you never know until "that day" that you will ever get your DPhil) at the IDS, you are addicted to 'writing'. (any other similarities?) I have written five books. The first one was my thesis written into a book (Community Participation *Empowering the Poorest* Roles of NGOs, 1992). In my thesis, I looked at participation as a process of empowering the poorest. Little did I realize then that 'empowerment' would become such a major theme in the 1990s, and now. World Bank has brought out a resource book 'Empowerment and Poverty Reduction, 2002) Second one, 'Participation and Sustainable Development' in 1993. Third one, 'Participation *Concept, Approaches and Techniques*' in 1999. The fourth one is Participatory Project Management. The fifth one is 'Women's Own *The Self-Help Movement of Tamilnadu*' in 2003. I wrote this book along with an Indian Administrative Officer. I am planning to write a sixth book on Manipur discussing the forest and wetland ecosystems and people. All these

books have been published by a publishing house established by me to publish my books!!

I am now in the middle of preparing a paper that I have to present at an international seminar 'Micro-Finance and Women's Empowerment' in January 2004. I am sure a number of IDS alumni are working in funding agencies. I keep coming across small NGOs who can use small grants and do some good work. I would like to hear from them.

Another important thing: as I work a lot in the northeast India, I come across a number of groups of women handloom producers. They have lost their markets as, due to militancy, the tourist numbers have dwindled. If anyone is willing to undertake some direct marketing of these products or give me information about agencies which could do it, please let me know. I intend traveling in Europe in summer 2004 and could bring some products. I can be contacted at: skvetrivel@hotmail.com

DP 91

Sepali Kottegoda (also **MP 7**) wrote: 'I have been working with the Women and Media Collective since I returned from IDS to Sri Lanka. We are currently doing a programme to strengthen recognition of women in the current peace process in the country as well as a research project on women's reproductive health rights in the conflict affected areas in Sri Lanka. I also coordinate the Sri Lanka Women's NGO Forum.

I am a Visiting Lecturer on the Post Graduate Programme in Women's Studies at the Faculty of Graduate Studies, University of Colombo as well as the B.A. in Social Studies at the Open University of Sri Lanka. I have several publications in the area of women and poverty, State economic policies relating to women and on migration of Sri Lanka women overseas for employment.

I would like to add that I have three sons - 11, 8½ and 4 years of age. My partner is Lakshman Gunasekara.'

DP 92

Priya Deshingkar was working on a DFID funded rural livelihoods project in Andhra Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh from 2001 to the end of 2003. Her recent work has been on the migration of poor labourers for work in India and elsewhere. She has two daughters, Tara (7) and Jade (5), who are fluent in English, Telugu and Hindi!

DP 94

Alan Fowler, now based in South Africa, wrote: 'In 2003 I was elected President of the International Society for Third Sector Research (ISTR) for a two year term and will 'preside' over the 6th Biennial conference in Toronto in July 2004.. The Society has some 700 members in 80 countries and is dedicated to knowledge generation and application about a field that is

variously described as civil society, voluntarism, non profit organisations and the Third Sector. www.istr.org I have also just been re-elected as a board member of Civicus, the World Alliance for Citizen Participation.'

DP 99

Saurabh Sinha is now Poverty Policy Advisor with UNDP Vietnam in Hanoi. He often meets up with **Robin Mearns** and **Ann Huddock** who have also moved to Hanoi. Bob Baulch drops in once in six months which all helps Saurabh stay in touch with news about IDS and good old Brighton.

DP 01

Many congratulations to **Will Wolmer** and Vicky on the birth of Tom on 12 May. All are doing well and Alex is very pleased with his new brother!

DP 02

Jennifer Jalal is currently working as Assistant Professor at the Centre for Law and Governance at one of the main universities in New Delhi. She teaches urban governance to post-graduate students and is also involved in a few research projects, based on different facets of governance.

DP 03

Tony Banks notified us in mid-April: 'next week I am changing my job from Massey University to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade in Wellington, New Zealand'. Tony had also caught up with **Robert Chambers** recently when he visited NZAID.

MPhil News

MP 2

John Samy was Country Director for Vietnam at the Asian Development Bank in Hanoi until mid August 2003. He is now back at ADB headquarters in Manila, Philippines.

MP 4

Jose Eguren moved from Riyadh to New York in the new year. He is working for UNDP as Coordinator, Latin America Oversight and Support Centre in the Regional Bureau for Latin America and the Caribbean.

Bernardo Mendez emailed: 'It's been almost 3 years since we left Atlanta and started our life in the San Francisco Bay area. A big change for me and my family. Georgia is the deep-south, conservative and rooted in the past even if great economic and political changes are present: Afro-American Mayors in Atlanta, a former President like Jimmy Carter who is very active defending peace and human rights, CNN headquarters spreading the USA image all over the world and they new way media builds reality and history even before the events have been developed. The West Coast is the land of Jack London, Jack Kourac, John Steinbek but also is the land of farm workers struggle led by Cesar Chavez and Dolores Huerta. The social and political spirit of Berkeley

is very much present in San Francisco and Oakland. I have been busy working and getting to know the problems of Mexican immigrants in Northern California, Bay Area and Hawaii, altogether nearly one million Mexicans in our consular jurisdiction.

My children go to school in the East Bay where we live: Walnut Creek a city of 80 thousand is our home. My eldest son, Adrian, is now in Community College but he wants to transfer to a public CA university to follow Cinema or movie studies. My second son, Jonas, will start High School next September, and the youngest, Timothee, will start Middle School in September. My wife, as a typical French national, always keeps a critical eye on everything: politics, food, movies, for her everything is non-sense "american" from supermarkets to Commercial Malls or movie programs but at the end she is deeply proud of San Francisco, the landscapes near Mount Diablo where we live, the idea of driving constantly to LA, an interesting "melange" of cultures that seems to become Mexican and Central American. San Francisco looks more and more Chinese and Asiatic. Gay culture and views are all over.

Almost eight years living in the USA but sharing our daily lives with many other cultures, hope you can come and visit us and enjoy this wonderful diversity. Other IDS people in the Bay area are **Wendy Walker** and her husband **David Moffet**, also with three boys, and we see each other once in a while. I had a visit from **Gwen Sullivan** who lives in Austin. **Gwen** gave me news of **Mammo Muchie** and other IDS friends.'

Antonia Bowring lives in NYC with her partner and 15 month old son. She does independent consulting - general strategy and brand strategy for non-profit organizations. She also facilitates off-site retreats.

Embert Charles wrote: 'I have been engaged in Broadcast and Telecommunications regulation for the past three years. My substantive job is Director of Information Service in St. Lucia, where among other functions, I am responsible for processing of applications for licenses to operate wireless radio and television broadcasting, as well as subscriber cable television. I am at present chairman of the Eastern Caribbean Regulatory Authority (ECTEL) which is a critical component of the regulatory authority for telecommunications management in the new liberalised environment in the small states of the Eastern Caribbean. ECTEL, through the associate regulatory bodies (National Telecommunications Regulatory Commission) has been central to the break up of the telecommunication monopoly in the eastern Caribbean. I am also involved in the operation of a public service television broadcasting network in St. Lucia.'

Edmundo Werna emailed in April: 'After six years "urban developing" at UNV, I felt it was time

to move. I am joining the ILO (International Labour Organization), with a focus on the Construction Industry. It is an important career move for me, and it will add a new perspective to my experience in development in general and human settlements in particular.

Looking back at UNV, I am pleased to see that, from a situation of very little urban interventions until the late 1990s, this agency now has a conceptual framework and a sizeable portfolio of urban activities. I hope that UNV keeps the momentum now it has proved that it can provide a distinctive value within international (urban) aid.'

MP 9

Donnacadh Hurley sent the following update: 'After leaving IDS I worked with a number of international development agencies including Oxfam and Trocaire (the Irish Catholic Church Development Agency), my last assignment being as Trocaire's Project Officer for Rwanda.

In 1995, I decided to focus my energies closer to home. For four years I worked with an employment and training co-operative in Ballymun, a suburb of Dublin right beside my home area. Our organisation grew a lot and with the Celtic Tiger employment issues became a little less pressing. In 1999 I moved to lead the development of a broad-based youth organisation and am still there. BRYR has a wide range of developmental programmes for 10 - 21 year-olds. We are developing a website - should be up in about a month www.bryr.ie.

On the personal front, I'm married to a wonderful Swiss woman - Maja (nearly twelve years now, holy moly!). We have an 11 year-old daughter - Maeve and a 10 year-old foster son - Craig. Life is lots of things, but it ain't boring!

We bought my original family home in Finglas, Dublin and completed a circle. As Joyce once said "the shortest way to Holyhead is via Tara".

I'd love to hear from old MP9'ers and others who I passed time with in IDS majadonhurley@eircom.net

MP 13

Robin Mearns and **Ann Huddock (DP 96)** have relocated to Vietnam for a few years from January 2004. Robin is Senior Natural Resource Management Specialist, Rural Development and Natural Resources Sector Unit, East Asia and Pacific Region, World Bank, and Ann is still Senior Advisor for Democracy and Governance with World Learning.

MP 15

Preeti Shroff-Mehta says: 'We are all doing fine and enjoying the Summer in Washington, DC. I teach graduate courses in International Development and Global Civil Society, International Education, and Indigenous Knowledge Innovations at the University of

Maryland at College Park, USA. I am also involved in a range of grassroots civil society and education projects in collaboration with the international development organizations based in the Washington, DC area.

I have just completed a book project with the Indigenous Knowledge in Development unit at the World Bank. (Woytek, R., Shroff-Mehta, P., and Mohan P.C. (Eds.) (2004). *Indigenous Knowledge: Local Pathways to Global Development. Marking Five Years of the World Bank Indigenous Knowledge for Development Program*. The World Bank, Washington, DC.)

The on-line version of the book will be available on the World Bank website in Fall 2004. I have mailed two signed copies for the IDS library.

MP 17

Anoma Radkevitch (nee Jayawickrema) worked in Bosnia & Belarus in 1996. Married in 1996 to a Russian. Tried to get back into development work after having two boys in 1997 and 1999 - to no avail apart from a short contract with Commonwealth Secretariat in 1998. Toyed with idea of PhD, but instead started a tea shop business in Windsor in early 2003 (www.crooked-house.com). Now has a third son who is just six months old. Husband is working in UN Peace-keeping Operations in DR Congo.

Glen Robbins contacted us in January: 'After almost eight years of working in local government in Durban I have made a change and am now working part-time as a research fellow at the School of Development Studies (at the recently renamed University of KwaZulu-Natal) and spending the other half of my time as a freelance consultant on local government, economic development and industry policy. My partner, Lucy, and I have two sons (Matthew 5 and Benedict 3) and another child on the way.

MP 22

Jean Merckaert has worked for two years in Colombia as a volunteer with his wife, Joëlle, as part of a peace education NGO in poor suburbs of Bogotá. Since the beginning of 2003 he has been working as an advocacy officer for CCFD (French NGO) in Paris on Financing for Development, especially on debt, ODA, IMF and the WB.

MP 24

Congratulations and many good wishes to **James Allen** and **Ana Teresa Lima (MP 25)** who were married in London on 21 February 2004.

And all good wishes and congratulations to **Leah Murphy** and Dave who will be getting married on 24 July.

MP 25

Hi folks,

after finishing the MPhil, I had a bit of 'vacation' and then went to Guatemala to work for an Italian

NGO, for a few months. Interesting experience. Once back in Italy, I started to work as consultant for FAO in Rome. I am still here and will work under World Bank contract till at least September 2004 on things I always liked (quantitative and qualitative measures of food insecurity). Soon I'll have an interview for a two-year contract with WFP-Peru, but would not count much on it. Besides (lots of) work, life is fine, living in the centre of Rome (the most beautiful city in the world) with my girlfriend (from Sussex!!) who's doing a stage in FAO. Sometimes I miss Brighton and people (especially Anina..) but, I must say, not IDS!! Good luck to all new and old students. Feel free to contact me at mauromigotto@hotmail.com. See you at the next issue. **Mauro Migotto**

MA News

MA 3

Teresa Hanley contacted us in April, saying: 'On completing the IDS Gender and Development Masters in 1990 I took up a position with the NGO Medical Aid for Palestinians as the Programmes Coordinator. Based in London this post involved the coordination of health programmes mainly in the West Bank, Gaza and Lebanon. During this time health services were transferred to Palestinian control as part of the peace agreement and I undertook a further Masters in Health Policy, Planning and Financing part-time in London at the LSE/LSHTM which proved very relevant also. From 1995 I worked with the Red Cross as their Development Adviser based in London with the British Red Cross. I spent two years in Central Asia based in Almaty, Kazakhstan, with the International Federation of the Red Cross as the Regional Programmes Coordinator and later back in London headed up the British Red Cross Programme Advisory and Development Department. Most recently I have moved to the Panos Institute as the Director of Programmes. All through this time the learning and friends made in IDS in the late 80's have stood me in good stead and I look forward to continued contact in the future.'

MA 4

Rosibel Gómez-Zuñiga is currently working as the national Coordinator of the Social Inclusion and Gender Programme of the Interamerican Development Bank (IADB) in Honduras.

MA 7

Sharron Mendel wrote: 'After half a lifetime away, I am (really!) returning to my hometown of Birmingham, Alabama, next week, to start a new life there. I have just been hired as the Executive Director of a non-profit called Friends of the Railroad District, Inc. which is leading the effort to build a Central Park-style park in downtown Birmingham. This will unite North and South, East and West Birmingham around a multiple-use park with spaces for concerts, jogging trails, farmer's

markets, art displays, and more. It will also spur extensive urban revitalization in the surrounding areas. In addition, for the past six months I have been making significant inroads into the field of personal and professional coaching. The plan for this business is to build on my love of young people by coaching teachers and teens/young adults. I am so looking forward to being a day-to-day part of my family again, and bringing what the world has taught me back home. Should anyone pass through Alabama, please don't hesitate to contact me or come visit. It's the kind of place that people often write off at first and then are completely surprised by when they get there. I'm happy to show people around! You can reach me at sharron_mendel@mindspring.com.'

MA 9

Golda El-Khoury is now based in Jordan, working as Regional Adolescent Advisor with UNICEF regional office for the Middle East and North Africa, covering 20 countries of the Arab world including Iran.

MA 10

Many congratulations to **Paola Brambilla** and Davide on the birth of their daughter, Mia Aurora, on 19 June 2004.

MA 12

Grace Mukasa worked with a leading Womens' NGO in Uganda after graduating, focusing on gender advocacy and human rights training for two and a half years. She has now joined Voluntary Service Overseas and been posted to Zambia as Country Director where VSO is focusing on education, orphans and vulnerable children, HIV/AIDS and sustainable rural livelihoods. She says 'It is a great job as one can see one's contribution to development. Gender is also a major area of focus.'

MA 14

Rebekah Webb is now working in Brussels as the European Coordinator of the Global Campaign for Microbicides, an umbrella coalition of NGOs working towards greater HIV and STI prevention options for women. She says: 'Anyone passing through Brussels is welcome to stop by for a chat and cup of tea!' (rwebb@global-campaign.org)

MA Gov 01

Peter Metcalf emailed: 'Since leaving IDS I have been doing what every retiree should do - some part time work. In the last year I have been part of a couple of UNDP Evaluation Office Assessment of Development Results (ADR) evaluation missions - in Nigeria and now Bangladesh. Last summer I also spent three months in Sierra Leone for UNDP setting up the Development Assistance Co-ordination Office (DACO) in the Vice President's office. My wife and I had both worked in Freetown for four years in the 1970s and it was 'bitter sweet' to be back. Bitter - because of the

human and physical destruction and sweet - to see old friends and find that the Sierra Leonean spirit is unchanged. The Government has made a lot of progress since the end of the war but there is still, of course, a long way to go.

Otherwise, we continue to spend half the year in Madagascar where my wife is still teaching and travel - yes, we do quite a lot of travelling!

MA Gov 02

Chris Galvin will be leaving GNet shortly to live in the States. We send our good wishes for the future to **Chris** and **Shaila Seshia (MP 23)** on their forthcoming marriage

Congratulations to **Miguel Loureiro** and **Shandana Mohmand** on the occasion of their wedding in Lahore on 13 February 2004.

Caitlin Porter emailed us in June: 'After returning from a difficult seven months in Afghanistan working with Concern Worldwide on livelihoods research, I now have a new job. But somehow I can't get away from Afghanistan! I am now working with Christian Aid as the advocacy officer for Afghanistan, Central Asia and Middle East region, which is quite a challenge. Luckily this post is based in London! It would be great to hear from any other IDS students/colleagues working in, or on, Afghanistan.' Email: cporter@christian-aid.org

MA Gov 03

Andrew Miller took up his new job with Population Services International (PSI) in November 2003. He then headed for Kabul, Afghanistan, in January 2004 for a one year posting.

The Group for (Re)Construction of War-torn Communities in the Middle East and Africa (RWCMEA)

Established in 2001, RWCMEA is a new long term collaborative research project involving scholars from Africa, the Middle East and the global academic north concerned with the contemporary re-envisioning of (re)construction as a site for alternatives to the collapse of the African and the Middle Eastern modernity projects. RWCMEA is an autonomous working group housed at the Middle East Awards for Population and Social Sciences in Cairo (Egypt) and the Office of African Studies at the American University in Cairo. The primary goals of the working group are to contribute to the articulation of a new interdisciplinary field of reconstruction studies within the global academy. A particular area of concern is the development of new theoretical frameworks grounded in the historical and spatial realities of the political present in the MENA region and Africa. Globalisation, transnationalism, and the failure of development agendas are some of the factors that demand new theoretical frameworks

for conceptualizing reconstruction practices in specific local sites.

Contact Persons: **Dr. Ibrahim Elnur** (DP 88), Associate Professor of Political Science & Director, Office of African Studies, American University in Cairo.

Dr. Martina Rieker, Assistant Professor of Modern History & Research Programmes' Coordinator, Institute for Gender and Women's Studies, American University in Cairo. Contacts: ielnur@aucegypt.edu and mrieker@aucegypt.edu

OASWeb: www.aucegypt.edu/academic/oas
RWCMEA Web: www.aucegypt.edu/rwcmea

Are you getting your *Yellow Monday*? *Yellow Monday* is the weekly newsletter for and about IDS. It keeps you in touch with external vacancies, events, news, new work in print, internal and external meetings. It's available in print, by email and online at www.ids.ac.uk/ids/news/y monday/index.html subscribe, email yellow.monday@ids.ac.uk

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.
