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4th Annual Alumni Reunion Friday October 14

IDRC Headquarters, 250 Albert Street, 5 p.m.

Hard to believe it's been four years, but the calendar doesn't lie! This year's event will be another great one. In keeping with the decision to choose a different IDRC region as the theme each year, this year's event will feature a taste of Southeast Asia. See page 2 for more details.

Meanwhile, the invitations have gone out, and we've already received scores of confirmations. Angie Anton, who is organizing this year's event (while supervising the construction of her new home!) asks that you please get your replies in as soon as possible so that she'll know how many guests to plan for. If by some oversight you didn't receive the invitation, just send an email to stanleyb@rogers.com indicating that you (and your guests, if any) plan to attend. And if you happen to know any other former IDRC staffers who are not Alumni members, be sure to tell them about the event. All are welcome!

Alumni and IDRC – giving the United Way

You probably remember IDRC's participation in the annual fundraising drive for charitable organizations grouped under the United Way banner. Well it's that time of year again, and Jean-Marc Fleury, IDRC staff representative on the Alumni Board, invites Alumni members to make their gift to the United Way in such a way that it can be included as part of the IDRC campaign.

To do this, if you are receiving your pension, simply return to IDRC the form you will receive from United Way. If you are not yet receiving your pension and want to make a donation, you can contact Jean-Marc (236-6163 ext. 2506; email: jfleury@idrc.ca) to request a Gift Form.

IDRC will forward all donations to United Way, and will be able to add your donation to the total raised by IDRC employees helping to achieve the Centre's campaign objective.



From the Board

We are preparing for the fourth Annual Reunion and Meeting of members, to be held on the 15th floor at IDRC Head Office in Ottawa on Friday 14 October, 5:00 p.m. This year the regional theme is Southeast Asia, and preparations are proceeding with our cooperative partners in ASRO, Singapore.

The Ambassador for Thailand has kindly arranged for a short performance by a dance troupe from Thailand that will take place during the evening. Nihal Kappagoda and Jingjai Hanchanlash, both former ASRO Regional Directors and current members of IDRC Alumni, will act as co-hosts.

Just a reminder that the reunion will be preceded at 3:45 p.m. by a collaborative seminar with the President of IDRC, Maureen O'Neil and senior IDRC staff. The theme of this event will be IDRC in the 21st Century, and all interested Alumni members are urged to attend and participate. The seminar will be held on the 14th floor.

I am pleased to be able to report that Alumni membership is holding steady at 142. If you encounter any former IDRC staff who are not aware of us, please tell them about us and invite them to contact our Membership Director, Maria Williams) at (613) 224-3926, or by email at mariawx@rogers.com.

For your information, at the close of another year your current Board of Directors consists of:

Chris Smart (Secretary),
Gerry Bourrier (Treasurer),
Bob Stanley (Director and Newsletter Editor),
Maria Williams (Director, Memberships),
Claude-Paul Boivin (Director, Special Projects),
Angie Anton (Director, Annual Reunion),
Plus myself as Chairman, and Jean-Marc Fleury and Kim Daley as IDRC Staff Representatives.

If you have an interest in serving on the Alumni Board we would welcome your participation. For interested members who live outside Canada, we would welcome the opportunity to discuss with you the creation of regional Alumni offices and the inclusion of regional directors on the Board.

We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible on October 14. To confirm your attendance, please email Bob Stanley at stanleyb@rogers.com.

James Pfeifer
Chairman

What does a logo mean to you?



Our “official” new logo

The observant reader may have noticed that the logo on our masthead has changed. The new logo incorporates the current IDRC logo with the addition of the words “Alumni” and “Anciens” appropriately placed. This design was officially approved by IDRC President Maureen O’Neil, who is a strong supporter of the IDRC Alumni and personally suggested the change.

Our secretary, Chris Smart, points out that IDRC has had three logos since 1970. “While the logo brands IDRC in the world it tends to fade into the background for those of us who saw it day in and day out on the steady stream of paper that crossed our desks,” he notes, adding that the logo that “means IDRC for you” is probably the one that you saw at the top of your letter of appointment? Or on that note from the office of the President that could be a mixed blessing!

Chris asks: “Does anyone from the ancient past know what one should see in the logo — an eight-pointed star? A morphing maple? Towers seen from a hovering helicopter? Anyone know the true history of its origins? Can you recall the heat generated over the need to change the logo — adding ‘Canada’, and later the big shift from round and black to square and blue?”

What does the IDRC logo mean to you (if anything)? What do you think of the new Alumni logo? Do you think logos really matter? Write and let us know, we’re always happy to hear from our members.

The IDRC History Project

While we’re on the topic of IDRC’s past you should already have received an email advising you that IDRC is preparing to create an official history. The IDRC History Project will culminate in the publication of a scholarly book on the history of the Centre to be completed by 2008. The official announcement says the book “is not intended to be a vanity publication, but an exercise in critical reflection and learning ... that will be accessible to non-academic audiences without compromising scholarly integrity and conventions.” That’s a tall order, but if you’re interested in taking on the project, better hurry – the closing date for expressions of interest is September 30. For more information go to www.idrc.ca/history.

If you’re not interested in taking on authorship, but have a perspective on events at the Centre that you feel would be a useful contribution to the history project, contact Bruce Currie-Alder at the Centre. His email is bcurrie-alder@idrc.ca.

Where are they
now?



Paul Stinson
IDRC 1977-1984

New Year, New Job

Since January 2005, Paul Stinson has been working at McGill in Montreal, as Director General of the Human Proteome Organisation (www.hupo.org). HUPO's mandate is to promote the field of proteomics - the study of proteins - with a focus on diagnosing disease and drug discovery to treat human disease. Although HUPO was established in 2002, and had already hosted three international proteomics congresses (Versailles, Montreal, and Beijing), Paul was HUPO's first employee. In April this year, he hired a staff of five for HUPO's secretariat, which is based at the McGill University and Genome Quebec Innovation Centre.

After preparing a five-year business plan, which has been widely circulated to Canadian and international funding agencies, Paul secured \$125,000 a year for five years from Montreal International, the economic development arm of the City of Montreal. The other founding partners of HUPO International are McGill University and Genome Quebec. Paul has been promoting the HUPO story to Industry Canada's Life Sciences Branch, and has also met with Dr. Art Carty (National Science Advisor), Dr. Alan Bernstein (Canadian Institutes of Health Research), Dr. Mike Raymont (National Research Council), and Dr. Martin Godbout (Genome Canada), among others.

Aside from fund-raising, Paul and his staff have been preparing for the 4th International HUPO Congress, held in Munich from 28 August to 1 September (www.hupo2005.com), which attracted about 1,700 scientists and industry professionals.

After a seven year stint from 1977 to 1984 with IDRC's Agriculture, Food & Nutrition Sciences Division, first in Ottawa and then in Singapore, Paul obtained an MBA at IMD in Lausanne, Switzerland in 1985. He joined Ciba-Geigy (now part of Novartis) in 1986 in Basle, Switzerland, followed by a two year stint at Ciba-Geigy Canada, followed by four years as Regional Director for Southern Africa, based in Harare. In 1993, after a year in Singapore, Paul returned to IDRC for an 18 month term as the first Manager of INBAR in New Delhi at SARO. In 1995, he joined Boehringer Mannheim India (now part of Hoffman La Roche) as Managing Director of BM India, based in Mumbai.

Returning from 14 years abroad in late 1986, Paul established CAPRA International (Canada Asia Pacific Rim Alliances) and carried out a number of consulting assignments for Innovara (Amherst, MA); the Centre for Molecular Medicine and Therapeutics (UBC, Vancouver); Quorum Diagnostics (Vancouver) and the BC Ministry of Employment and Investment.

John Woolston
IDRC 1970 - 1985

Where are
YOU
now?

Stinson continued

Immediately prior to joining HUPO, Paul spent four years as Executive Director of BC Biotech, the provincial biotechnology industry association.

Paul and Sherry recently celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary, and their twin boys (Chris and Stephen) are 14, going on 21. Both are nationally ranked squash-players, who are already gearing up for the Canadian Junior Open in December. They have also received the black belts in taekwondo and have their Grade 6 piano, so Paul and Sherry are extremely proud parents. Rounding out the household is Rocky, a seven-year-old Rottweiler, ten (yes, ten!) rabbits, three hamsters and a gerbil. There's a lesson there: don't travel too often, or you'll find the menagerie grows in your absence.

Volunteering in Mexico

During the first 12 of his 15 years with the Centre, John Woolston was Director of the Information Sciences Division. Then from 1983 to 1985 he held the position of Vice-President, Information Programs.

Finally leaving IDRC at the end of 1985, John moved to Aleppo, Syria to become Program Leader for Scientific and Technical Information at ICARDA (International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas). After three-and-a-half years he left Aleppo to do consulting work, much of it with the FAO in Rome.

Since 1992 John has been living and working as a volunteer at CIMMYT (International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center) in Mexico.

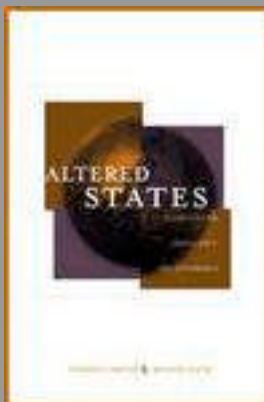
We like to hear from our members...

...so drop us a line. Let us know what you're doing, where you've been. Got a new job? Moved to another country? Just back from another country? Our members like to hear news of their former colleagues — people consistently tell me that they turn to the "Where are they now?" feature first when they receive their newsletter. It's a great way to stay in touch.

So don't be shy. Whether you send me a few paragraphs like John, or a detailed article like Paul, I'll be happy to publish it. And if you can send a picture as well, so much the better. By email or snail mail will be fine. My address is on the front page. Look forward to hearing from you.

BobS

NEWS FROM THE CENTRE



Two new books from IDRC look at the role of the United Nations

The world that we live in today is changing dramatically. Economic and political liberalization, together with accelerating technological change, are driving the extraordinary process we know as “globalization.” This new global environment requires new approaches, new ideas, and innovative tools to address new challenges in areas as different as weapons control, climate change, genetic engineering, and labour standards.

As the United Nations (UN) prepares for reform, IDRC presents two books that examine globalization, and the current state of the world. Both offer recommendations on how the UN could better respond to the 21st century, more effectively serve its member states, and fulfill its mission to address the problems of humanity.

Critical Choices: The United Nations, Networks, and the Future of Global Governance

This book looks at an innovative tool to address new challenges presented by the new global environment: global public policy networks. In these networks, governments, international organizations, the corporate sector, and civil society join together to achieve what none can accomplish on its own. The authors explore both the promises and the limitations of this new form of global cooperation. They discuss how such networks might contribute to better manage the risks and make use of the opportunities that globalization presents. Finally, they offer provocative advice and solid recommendations on how the United Nations can foster such networks in the years ahead.

Altered States: Globalization, Sovereignty, and Governance:

For all the opportunities that globalization promises, it raises urgent questions of governance. Can states any longer govern? Has the achievement of democratic government come too late for most of the world? Can globalization be democratized? In *Altered States*, Gordon Smith and Moisés Naím provide practical recommendations for improved governance and for strengthening and reforming the United Nations.

The message of *Altered States* is one of both hope and warning: globalization opens great possibilities of prosperity, security, and human well-being, but only if new ways of governance are constructed.

For more information, please email info@idrc.ca or phone (613) 236-6163 ext.2101.

Unique Opportunity to Support Development in Congo

by Réal Lavergne

I am collaborating closely with Cécile de Sweemer, who is also an IDRC alumnus, on a project that she is undertaking in Western Kasai, Congo.

Western Kasai is much neglected by the donor community, and the need is extreme. Cécile's project aims to relaunch the agricultural crop cycle following the devastations of war, now that the region is stable.

Cécile is now retired, and is donating her time to this project. My own role has been that of providing some funds and helping with fundraising in Canada. We need to raise about \$460,000 over the next three years.

This is a most interesting project, and for people who like to support good development work, it represents a unique opportunity to support a concrete project that would not be funded without our support. Through contact with Cécile, we are able to monitor progress, and enjoy the satisfaction of success on the ground.

I have been thinking that other members of IDRC Alumni might want to participate in this project - particularly those who know Cécile. We have set things up with a Canadian NGO to receive and transfer funds to the project, and tax receipts will be issued to contributors.

Réal is a member of IDRC Alumni. His "day job" is as a Senior Analyst in the Policy Branch at CIDA. To learn more about the project in Western Kasai you can reach him at 819-997-1597 or by email at real_lavergne@acdi-cida.gc.ca.



IDRC Golf Tournament Rained Off

It's been a hot and mostly dry summer in Ottawa, but on August 31, the day scheduled for the annual IDRC Golf Tournament, the skies were dark and it poured! All play was cancelled for the day. IDRC Alumni members had been invited to participate in the event and two of your Board members were looking forward to demonstrating their prowess on the links. However, it was not to be. So far no news on a possible new date for the event, so we may have to wait until next year to bring home the trophy to the Alumni Room at IDRC HQ. More about the Alumni Room in the next issue of this newsletter.

**IDRC ALUMNI
STATEMENT OF REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES
FISCAL YEAR SEPTEMBER 2004 – AUGUST 2005**

REVENUES

Membership Fees (2004-2005)	\$ 2,653.54
Miscellaneous income (2004 reception)	1,132.51
Membership Fees (2005-2006) - prepaid	20.00

Total Revenues 3,806.05

EXPENDITURES

Reception (2004)	1,718.65
Newsletter (translation)	500.00
Office supplies, miscellaneous	270.44
Bank charges	145.50

Total Expenditures 2,634.59

Excess of Revenues over Expenditures \$ 1,171.46

Balance carried over from 2003-2004 3,106.76

Bank Balance at year end (31 Aug.2005) 4,278.22

Approved on behalf of the Board:

Gerald R. Bourrier, Treasurer

James C. Pfeifer, Chairman

31 August 2005