
The IDRC Alumni provides opportunities for former IDRC employees to maintain personal and professional links, and supports continuing dialogue on development issues.

Tuesday, November 4

Save Tuesday, November 4 in your calendars for our Annual General Meeting. This year we will enjoy a luncheon in the Nayudamma Lounge at IDRC Headquarters.

Bulletin

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Wish to support the IDRC Alumni Association? Contributions can be made annually or over a three-year period:

1 year	\$20
2 years	\$35
3 years	\$50

Cheques payable to the **IDRC Alumni Association**.

Return to: Donna Bickford, 1195 Priory Lane, Ottawa, ON, Canada. K1C 1Z8

From the Chair

Rob Robertson

THE WORLD STAGE

During the quadrennial festival of sport and commerce known as the Olympics, Canadians perch on the edge of their chairs passionately following the fortunes and misfortunes of our athletes. Thanks to a well-financed program, Canada has risen to the top of the table in the Winter Olympics. Along with the peoples of other international sports powerhouses, we are given two weeks of excitement and memories. But apart from pockets of excellence, such as Jamaican sprinters and Kenyan distance runners, developing countries both big and small are largely left on the sideline, obviously in the winter but also in the summer.



That brings us to the World Cup of soccer where there's no Canada to support, but there are teams from places we remember with affection that for a shining moment take their place on the world stage...Ghana in their bright yellow, green and red kit barely losing to the USA and tying mighty Germany...Costa Rica and their improbable run to the quarter-finals ending with a heart-breaking loss to the Dutch on penalty kicks...Uruguay banishing both Italy and England before succumbing to Colombia in what we might call LARO vs. LACRO.

I have vivid memories of attending a soccer game in Montevideo at the mammoth Estadio Centenario with LACRO colleagues. Built in 1930 to host the first ever FIFA World Cup, it became the scene of Uruguay's greatest international victory. Alas, on the night I attended the fervent fans of Uruguay's top team, Nacional, went home disappointed with a Colombian side again the villain.

Even more than the Olympics, the World Cup is a true world event fought out on a level playing field, bringing excitement and pride to countries seldom on the world stage. Many Canadians, accustomed to the frenzy of hockey, disparage the deliberate pace of soccer. But as I slouched in my chair impatiently waiting for a goal or even a shot, it was fun for me to think of our friends and colleagues in developing countries perched on the edge of theirs.

Alumni News

Wardie Leppan

Wardie must hold the record for the number of ways in which he has known IDRC. First contact was in 1983 as a consultant doing a paper on *The impact of microelectronics on the Third World*. This morphed into a summer job (writing PCRs for long gone POs), then to the Energy Research Group as the Project Advisor. He escaped in 1989 but was back in 1995, head hunted by Marc Van Ameringen to join ROSA. A one-year agreement became six - until ROSA closed. Initially a locally-hired PO, earning a third of the Ottawa-hired POs, and having to pay the cost of his family's travel to ROSA, by 2001 he was Ottawa bound as an Ottawa-hired SPS to be Team Leader for SUB. In 2004 Wardie moved to RITC and had his last desk with NCDP! Wardie's IDRC career spans five presidents and work with every program area at one stage or another.



The future is volunteering (with inner city kids' homework programmes and kids on bikes programmes), training to be a bike mechanic and to master the mandolin... watch for the debut of the Red Grass, *Hot to Trot Trio*.

Photo: Jean-Michel and Gisèle Morin-Labatut, Brian Davey, Chris Smart, Wardie, Joachim Voss, David Brooks, Renaud dePlaen, Catherine Shearer, Heloise Emdon.

Chris MacCormac

On December 19, 2013 Chris retired after 22 years with the Asia Development Bank where he was Senior Advisor (Knowledge Enterprise).

Thanks to Arun Abraham for the news



Chris remembers the privilege of working with the Centre for thirteen years (1978-1991).

"I spent the first four years in AFNS at headquarters, at 60 Queen Street. I worked under two great mentors, Doug Daniels and Mr. Hulse. My main responsibility was to try and imbed the principles and practices of benefit-cost analysis and microeconomics more broadly into farming systems research, aquaculture, forestry, and post-harvest project proposals to be supported by AFNS. It was great fun; we were trying to overcome "ignorance squared" as we called it--I knew nothing about agriculture and food science, and my wonderful agriculture colleagues (Brian Davy, Andrew Kerr, Gilles Lessard, Cherla Sastry, Ed Weber, among others) generally had limited exposure to economics. Somehow, it worked.

In February 1982 I went to ASRO, where I stayed until I left IDRC. There I had the gift of being mentored by Jingjai Hanchanlash who literally knew everybody in East Asia and his relationship skills enabled the rest of us to engage and work with so many interesting people in the region. In ASRO I also worked closely with great people, including, among others, Paul Stinson, Brian, Cherla, Randy Spence, Willy Reyes, Maria Ng, and Gordon Banta (on those 5-6 days a year Gordon was actually

in Singapore; he was fondly referred to as "The Nomad" by the rest of us at ASRO).

There were many other fine colleagues in ASRO over that period, including a very professional, friendly and thoughtful cadre of Singaporean colleagues such as Vivien Chiam, Teresa Wong, and especially Jeannie Char. Jeannie worked directly with me ("put up with me" would perhaps be more correct) for the full nine years; a remarkable and kind friend, and fortunately for me, blessed with infinite patience! During those nine years I travelled widely throughout East and Southeast Asia, again focusing on the 'demand'-side of the agriculture equation, but I also had the opportunity to work with Doug Daniels and John Hardie on their new and highly innovative work on research management and the allocation of resources to research.

Finally, the many scientists and other research professionals in the region that I worked with represented a wealth of talent and dedication to help others that is impossible to describe. I was, in reality, a 'visitor to their home' but always made to feel welcome. They shared their knowledge freely, and gladly. I was very fortunate."

Gallery



Pals gather to celebrate Barb's 65th:

Photo: Louise Behan / Mike Boulet / Barbara Davidson / Pauline Dole / Kathy Kealey / Danielle Gagnon / Julie Hauser / Debbie Montgomery / Erin O'Manique / Beryl Scrivens / Danielle Vinette / Michèle Wilson

Thanks to Louise



Geoff Oldham and Roger Young on the 'left Coast' June 2014

Where Are They Now?

Sibry Tapsoba



Sibry has been in Abidjan since November 2013 as head of the ADB's newly-established department on Conflict-affected and Fragile states.

Thanks to Necla Tschirgi for the news

Fred Carden

Fred is Lead Technical Advisor for the AusAID project *Knowledge Sector Initiative*. He writes from Indonesia:



“I have been occupied for the past year with the launch of the Knowledge Sector Initiative in Indonesia, a 15-year program to support a stronger use of evidence in the policy process here. It entails working with policy research institutes both around strengthening policy research capacity, but also their sustainability as organizations. It involves working with policy makers to strengthen the use of evidence; working with knowledge intermediaries to improve access to evidence; translation to policy makers to strengthen policy analysis capacity in government; support to advocacy groups to increase their access to and use of evidence; to foster better use of evidence in the media; and, it involves stimulating discussion and debates on the laws, regulations, policies and practices that inhibit the production and use of policy research (procurement, financing, taxation, donor practices, among others). So, a massive beast to wrestle into some sort of order and negotiate the priorities of multiple actors - Government of Indonesia, Government of Australia, our research partners, our CSO partners and doubtless many more! All of this through a challenging period in the relationship between

Indonesia and Australia that added its own challenges to the work. So the past year has been a deep dive inside and we are now beginning to emerge and look around the space we are working in. We are beginning to make those choices with our partners and launch some initiatives.

The picture was taken at a recent event, the launch of a speaker series at the National Institute of Public Administration here in Jakarta. I had the privilege of being the first speaker in the series, which is part of the establishment of a "Policy Analyst Hub", to strengthen the capacity for policy analysis at national and subnational levels in Indonesia. The Policy Analyst Hub is a huge undertaking with more than 650 government departments, agencies and special operating units to be staffed, trained, mentored and otherwise supported.”

There is an interview with Fred at: <http://onthinktanks.org/2013/08/14/the-on-think-tanks-interview-fred-carden-lead-technical-advisor-indonesia-ksi-part-2/>

Christina Zarowsky



Christina is currently Director of the UWC Centre for Research in HIV and AIDS in the School of Public Health at the University of the Western Cape, Republic of South Africa.

Christina returns to Canada in the fall to head up the Department of Social and Preventive Medicine in the School of Public Health at the University of Montreal.

There is a video of Christina, one of the founders of the Global Health Research Initiative, sharing her thoughts on the Teasdale-Corti program at: <http://vimeo.com/52714253>

From the Archives



Rav Audet, Kerry Broadbent, Marilyn Campbell, Vern Jorssen, Willy Reyes, Karl Smith, Yeu-man Yeung

In Marco Polo's footsteps...IDRC in China 1984

Kerry Broadbent was sorting old snaps and shared this one. Marilyn, who wrote the trip report, remembers:

“It was taken 30 years ago, in May of 1984. The IDRC Board had approved a lump sum of \$5M dollars to be earmarked for research proposals from China. Proposals that were received were not the type that IDRC would normally support so a group of staff from various divisions went to Beijing, Nanjing, and Shanghai to meet with the heads of research institutions and explain how to do a proposal for IDRC support.

My personal recollections include: eating the delicacy ‘sea slugs’, of which we tired very quickly; locally-made kiwi juice which needed work; being the only one in the group prepared with medications for the colds and various illnesses we all picked up, and thus acting as the group ‘nurse.’ (how cliché!); and walking through Shanghai after dinner with dear Karl Smith while little old ladies sat staring and pointing at us, much to our amusement.”

Kerry recalls the Kiwi incident: “The Kiwi fruit was called, and might still be, amongst agriculturalists, the Chinese gooseberry (*Actinidia Chinensis*)*. When on this mission we visited a Chinese gooseberry farm where they were trying to replicate without success, the New Zealand variety which was developed in NZ as Kiwi Fruit. They were not successful but were desperate for IDRC to fund a project that would transform the China variety. That was then, now, I assume, the Chinese have figured it out.”

*Ed. Prof. Google confirms this: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kiwifruit> However, with the Kiwi's success better PR for the plant was signaled with a new Linnean handle, *Actinidia deliciosa*.

Ray is delighted that he now has a picture that shows he had hair...once.

Letters to the Editor

I'm so sorry to see that Karl Smith passed away and can only echo the sentiments of others, especially perhaps those of Stuart Brown as we also were in Dakar at the same time as Karl, Patsy, and family, and we have many fond memories indeed.

All well with the MacNeil family - both Joan and Gordon are retired in Victoria now, and are happy grandparents - I am on a couple of center Boards so manage to stay a little connected to the CGIAR, which has been pretty much my whole working life, even when at IDRC in the 70's and 80's.

Gordon MacNeil

I was very sorry to find out about Karl Smith's passing. I enjoyed very much working with Karl. He was a wonderful person.

Bob Hertzog

I'm happy to be on board again. Well since I left IDRC, I worked for almost one year for World Food Program (Senegal Office). Now I'm taking a rest, busy taking care of my own and family. It's nice to take time for family.....

Best wishes

Marie Fal

Greetings from Istanbul where I am attending a series of meetings on mediation and peacebuilding. Many thanks for the write up in the Alumni Bulletin. I already had a wonderful e-mail from Helene Mongeon as a result. I always enjoy learning about other alumni, so I suspect others do as well.

Necla Tschirgi

IN MEMORIAM

**Bill Jeanes
(1921-2014)**



With Bill's passing we are reminded of the sense of purpose and adventure that marked IDRC's start up.

Dr. William L. (Bill) Jeanes loved to share the story of his first days with IDRC as one of, if not the first, Program Officer in the Health Sciences Division. With help from Bill's son David working with Bill's immaculately kept archive we see Bill in at the dawn of Canada's development assistance.

Bill had come from the UK in 1957 as medical director of the Canadian Tuberculosis and Respiratory Diseases Association (CTRDA), (now the Lung Association); he led Canada's national tuberculosis program for 15 years and founded the Canadian Thoracic Society.

As early as 1968 Bill was meeting with senior people at Canada's External Aid Office (forerunner to CIDA), consulting on projects in Viet Nam and Senegal. Under a 1969 agreement with the CTRDA Bill provided up to 40 days a year of consulting services to CIDA for T.B. projects in South Viet Nam, a contract that was extended to 120 days with an office in CIDA.

IDRC opened for business in the summer of 1970. By April 1971 Bill was discussing working with Dr. Henri Gaudefroy, Director General of Special Advisers at CIDA, and Dr. George Brown, Director of Health and Population at IDRC.

On 25 April 1972, David Hopper offered Bill the job of Advisor-Health and Family Planning, commencing 1 August, 1972 on the understanding he would be seconded to CIDA. Bill resigned from the CTRDA on the same day, but there was a phased transition out of this role over the rest of the year, even after he started working at IDRC/CIDA. The arrangement suggests that Bill, asked to travel to Viet Nam for IDRC, was to have a CIDA contract as the Centre was too young to have the proper stationery and mechanisms to cover staff travel. Bill's early staff role with IDRC is confirmed by a letter from Ivan Head in October 1982 congratulating Bill on ten years of service.

Bill wrote a paper on "Sectoral Guidelines: Health and Population", in September 1973 where he summarized key CIDA projects, as well as the relationship between CIDA and IDRC over its first three years, when he had been responsible for maintaining CIDA's close cooperation with the IDRC Population and Health Sciences Division.

For the full panorama of Bill's life from, first year medical student in London during the Blitz to founder of HealthBridge read his obituary at:

<http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/ottawacitizen/obituary.aspx?n=c-william-l-jeanes->

[bill&pid=171615810](#)

In 1979 I was a Ph.D. student writing my dissertation about the experience of a group of McGill University medical professors who over the previous 15 years, with funding from CIDA, had helped to establish the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Nairobi. I was trying to understand how medical knowledge transferred from the North to the South could be reshaped to meet the needs of a new context, and the costs and benefits of participating in such a project for both the Canadians and the Kenyans.

Early on, I spent several weeks in Ottawa interviewing CIDA staff who had been involved with the project. Dr. Bill Jeanes found the topic to be of great interest and he provided insight into the problems and issues faced by all the participants. I had come to CIDA expecting to hear mostly glowing reviews of the project, but Dr. Jeanes was highly analytical, not only giving an excellent overview but also identifying areas of concern that he suggested I examine during my upcoming fieldwork in Kenya. I was impressed with his honesty and his willingness to talk about both the strong and weak points of the project and I felt greatly encouraged by his genuine interest in my work.

Since I had not yet interviewed any of the McGill University physicians, I had some trepidation about how they would respond to probing questions from a Ph.D. student. However, the positive experience with Bill Jeanes gave me confidence to press ahead and ask difficult questions when I eventually did the interviews. After completing the dissertation, I sent a copy to Dr. Jeanes and he made numerous valuable comments.

Later, when I joined IDRC, I interacted with him occasionally and always found him to be a thoughtful, fair-minded individual. However it was those first meetings when I was a student and he was willing to give me the benefit of his wisdom and experience that stand out in my memory.

Eva Rathgeber

**Patrick Doherty
(1949-2013)**



Patrick was one of that special band of clever young people whom IDRC attracts. He worked in the Office of Planning and Evaluation assisting with the research for *With Our Own Hands*, the book that marked the Centre's fifteenth Anniversary in 1985. This was before the personal computer and word processing had reached the desks of IDRC staff and Patrick is remembered as one who helped to do 'all of it by hand, with piles of hard copy'.

A graduate of Carleton University's Norman Paterson School, Patrick went on to an accomplished career in International Trade and community service.

A full obituary is found at: <http://www.harvardpress.com/News/Obituaries/Patrick-Joseph-Doherty.aspx>

News of Patrick's passing came from Arun Abraham who writes: Patrick was a dear family friend, a mentor, a teacher and an inspiration beyond words.



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<https://www.facebook.com/#!/groups/556623107712593/>
