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

Bulletin

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Thanks to Michèle Wilson for Translation

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

Electronic transfer is also possible for Alumni across Canada and in other parts of the world who have Canadian accounts. For details contact Gerald Bourrier <bici@sympatico.ca>

From the Chair

Rob Robertson

THE ORIGINAL

For many years this space was occupied by Jim Pfeifer, bringing us news of IDRC and of the Alumni Association he helped to found. Now Jim has passed away, and with him goes much of the living history of the first years of the Centre he helped to create.



I first met Jim when I was interviewed for a summer job in 1977. He sat back in his big chair, feet propped on his desk, firing questions at me. He was in his heyday as Secretary and General Counsel, a central piece in the free-wheeling IDRC of the 1970's. For Jim, the Centre was the perfect tableau for his love of style and protocol and the personal touch...stage managing Board meetings, establishing international centres, and acting as confidant to a President he revered.

For those who were lucky enough to work for Jim, he was a constant source of support and encouragement. A sense of loyalty was embedded in Jim's soul. He believed in "looking after his people". He said he learned this in the military, but I think it was just Jim.

Jim was a person with strong views, elegantly expressed, on topics great and small. He knew what he liked. He liked Lufthansa, he liked Fords, he liked roast beef, he liked a room temperature cool enough that he had to keep his jacket on, and sometimes he liked the NDP. Any time you wanted an opinion, you knew where you could find one.

Jim's funeral was a wonderful tribute to him as speakers recalled not only his seminal part in establishing IDRC but his love of music. Through his company Opera Ottawa he was the first person to stage an opera at the National Arts Centre. He would have thrilled at the big church organ booming out Beethoven's *Ode to Joy* at his service. And for the many IDRC alumni who were there to honour Jim, it was with joy that we remembered the life of this IDRC original.

Alumni News

WARO Alumni on the spot for a Canadian milestone: XVth Summit of la Francophonie

From Dakar, Fatmata Thiaw writes that she and former colleagues from WARO were thrilled to work with the Canadian team preparing for Senegal to host la Francophonie. Other alumni were M. Jacques Habib SY, Mme. Catherine Cherrier Daffé, Mme. Fama Fall Ndiaye, and M. Amadou Lamine Ndiaye.

Alumni will recall that it was at the November 2014 Summit that Canadian, Michaëlle Jean, was named its first woman leader.

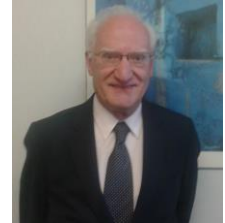
Back to the "Mother ship"

Two Alumni have been drawn back to IDRC Planetary HQ.



Necla Tscherger was in Ottawa at the invitation of IDRC as part of an external evaluation study of the Governance, Security and Justice Program. As expected IDRC filled Necla's calendar with meetings but she found a weekend moment to meet with former colleagues at an open house hosted by her son. Those who made it through the snow: Gisèle Morin-Labatut, Necla, Daniel Buckles, Jean-Michel Morin-Labatut and Debra Huron.

Francisco Chaparro was in Ottawa as part of visits to several Canadian universities to explore the establishment of a regional research network: *Establishing an Innovation Platform of the Pacific Alliance (INNPLAT)*. The project is one of several initiatives for greater research collaboration following a visit of IDRC president, Dr. Jean Lebel as a member of the team that accompanied Governor General, David Johnston on his state visit to Columbia and Chile in December 2014.



News from Elsewhere



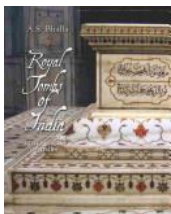
H. Olav Slaymaker, C.M.

Dr. Slaymaker was an IDRC Governor from 1994 to 2002. He has been awarded the Order of Canada "For advancing the field of geology, notably through his research on landform evolution".

Alumni in Print

Ajit Bhala

Royal Tombs of India: 13th to 18th Century (Mapin, 2009)



Royal Tombs of India, the first book of its kind on the Islamic royal tombs of India, focuses on the Tughluq and Lodi Tombs, Qutb Shahi Tombs and Mughal Tombs (Humayun, Akbar, Aurangzeb, Jahangir and Nur Jahan, Bibi-ka-Maqbara, and the Taj Mahal). It also discusses the controversy surrounding the location of Babur's tomb. These tombs are among the most magnificent pieces of Islamic architecture and grandeur.

More at: http://books.google.ca/books/about/Royal_Tombs_of_India.html?id=JaJfPgAACAAJ&redir_esc=y

Bruce Currie-Alder / Ravi Kanbur / David M. Malone / Rohinton Medhora

International Development: Ideas, Experience, and Prospects (Oxford University Press)

Available as: eBook | Hardback



Thinking on development informs and inspires the actions of people, organizations, and states in their continuous effort to invent a better world. *International Development: Ideas, Experience and Prospects* examines the ideas behind development: their origins, how they have changed and spread over time, and how they may evolve over the coming decades. It also examines how the real-life experiences of different countries and organizations have been inspired by, and contributed to thinking on development.

More at:

<http://www.idrc.ca/EN/Resources/Publications/Pages/NonIDRCBookDetails.aspx?PublicationID=1298>

Rohinton Medhora interviewed at <https://www.cigionline.org/articles/evolutions-international-development>

Gallery



Fawzy Khishk, Vijay Pande, Jingjai Hashanlash, Francisco Chaparro, Adzei Bekoe, Piere Sané

Meeting of Regional Directors Quebec City 1983

Where are they Now?

Kabiru Kinyanjui



Kabiru Kinyanjui has been appointed by Kenya's President to Chair the Kenya National Examinations Council.

Kabiru in action at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O1EBtKKkfk>

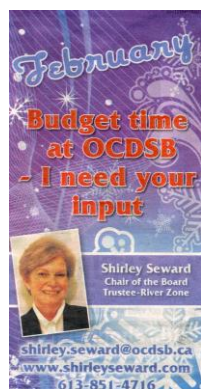
Thanks to Necla Tschergi

Shirley Seward

At the end of October, Shirley was re-elected School Board Trustee for River Zone (Ottawa) for 2014-2018. At the Inaugural Board meeting she was elected Chair of the Board.

Spotted in the *Ottawa West News* Feb 12 2015

Shirley's website is: <http://www.shirleyseward.com/>



Letters to the Editor

I much enjoyed the latest Bulletin and photos. It makes me remember old colleagues and times past. This is especially so for Syria where it became impossible to work. One of the first tasks I had given me when I returned to the Center from the Philippines in 1978 was to respond to a request from Joe Hulse and John Woolston to travel to Aleppo along with Olga Lendvay to assist in the development of a research Network for Dryland crops at the newly established International Center for Agricultural Research in Dry Areas (ICARDA) under the aegis of the Consultative Group for International Research (CGIAR).

We were met after a late flight by the first Director-General, Harry Darling and were taken to the Guest house in Damascus. The next day we were driven up to Aleppo, first over the high escarpment out of the city stopping along the way at notable sites: a Christian chapel reputed to be the oldest in antiquity, then past Hama with its gigantic water wheels dating back into antiquity. Hama was totally destroyed in 1982 and again in 2009. All along the route was marked by newly planted cedar trees. We stopped in Homs, which had a large Christian community before reaching Aleppo. This route had become problematic by the mid-eighties with many road blocks set up by the Mukharabat, (secret police), usually consisting of four or five youths clad in jeans and black leather jackets, Kalashnikovs loosely slung from their shoulders. The advice was: be patient, look ahead, no eye contact and patience! Fortunately the ICARDA registration plate was usually sufficient for a waving through. Our work was, I believe, very successful. It was there I first met Geoff Hawtin who ran the field crops programme.

We established contact first with the University of Saskatchewan mainly for Faba Beans and Lentil research and managed to get the help of Al Slinkard (consultant for FABIS and LENS projects), a

dedicated researcher and who is now Emeritus professor of Pulse Crops at Saskatchewan. We also got help from the Commonwealth Agricultural Bureau in setting up the LENS network. All told, I believe the LENS project was one of the most significant projects I was able to assist given its long term effects for food supply in drylands all over the world.

Later in the 1980s John Woolston went out after he retired from IDRC. Over the course of time I made several visits to Aleppo and outreach projects in Egypt and Jordan and fondly recall the profitable working relations as well as leisure time in and around Aleppo soaking up the local culture, the ancient Souk, the many Christian Cathedrals and evenings spent walking the alleys dropping into cafes for coffee and the best Baklava anywhere.

Sadly it all came to an abrupt end when the current troubles first began to emerge. Research work became problematic and finally came to an abrupt halt when the facility was overrun by rebels. In 2012 ICARDA finally had to decamp and move to Lebanon.

There were other projects and other visits in Syria and from time to time I had opportunities to see Damascus, a city with an ancient history that had captivated Alexander the Great, Saladin and the likes of Lawrence of Arabia and King Faisal to mention a few. St Paul was said to have been blinded by God on the Way to this city, later being cured on Straight Street (Acts 9. 13-19) and St Ananias' Chapel marks the spot where he was reputed to have been cured. I especially recall the time I was sitting with Fawzy Khish and Antoine Terjanian in a delightful café eating cakes and drinking coffee high up outside the city on Mount Qassioun looking down on the glittering metropolis and the minarets of the Ummayaid Mosque, the tallest of which is said to be the spot where Mohammed and Jesus will descend together on Judgement Day.

Kerry Broadbent

IN MEMORIAM



James Pfeifer
1934-2014

James Pfeifer was one of the team that brought IDRC from notion to motion, the young lawyer credited with drafting the Act that is the cornerstone of IDRC's uniqueness both in Canada and internationally. He was the Centre's General Council from its opening in 1971 to 1982.

Tributes were received from IDRC and INBAR colleagues:

I am deeply saddened about Jim Pfeiffer's death.

I worked with Jim as his deputy from February 1974 to the end of 1982. This period was long before he

succumbed to illness.

Jim was part of the original team that crafted the IDRC Act. As a recognized legal draftsman, his role was crucial.

Jim was precise in expression, a stickler for legality and propriety, and deeply sympathetic to the plight of the troubled and of the struggling. In furtherance of IDRC activities, on multiple fronts, Jim maintained healthy contact with the elected, the selected and the connected. He was well respected by the then members of the Board of Governors and the IDRC luminaries of the day, including, among others, Maurice Strong, David Hopper, Ivan Head, Joe Hulse, John Woolsten, Dr. Gill, Ray Audet and others.

Jim, with the approval of David Hopper, helped me to acquire qualifications for the practice of law in the Province of Ontario. I shall be eternally grateful to both of them.

Jim enjoyed life to its utmost. He loved music, of the operatic and classical type. His literary interests were widespread. He enjoyed healthy cuisine with fine liquor. His travels were extensive, and cultural sensitivities sharp.

Jim was a committed family man. Jennifer, his soul mate, stood foursquare behind him in success and in distress. She was Jim's rock of support and his inspiration.

Inder Bhoi

I remember Jim vividly as a great person that made a huge contribution to IDRC's mission.

Francisco Chaparro.

I remember Jim as a hardworking and serious General Counsel who was also quite comfortable associating with junior staff. He was liked by everyone at the Centre in the early years and respected for his counsel. He would also be the first to promote any social activity at IDRC.

Roger Young

Sad, but we are losing all the "originals".

Gordon MacNeil

Jim has seemed to me the rock on which much of IDRC was built.

Ken Riley

Certaines personnes comme nous qui avons longtemps travaillé au CRDI nous rappelons ces grandes figures qui avaient façonné cette inimitable institution.

Fatmata Thiaw

From INBAR colleagues

Jim was my right hand man in Beijing during the early days of independent INBAR and we lived next door to each other. We miss him very much.

Cherla Sastry

It's indeed very sad that our dear Jim has passed away. I still cherish the days when I/we all used to

work closely during the starting days of INBAR when Jim was the ED. Days just fly...!

Subramony

I reminisced with Usha, on the days when Jim was in Beijing, especially the fairness with which he related to staff as Executive Director.

Rama Rao

Jim did great job for INBAR. We are still benefit a lot from the system and rules he helped to set up.

Judy ZHU

Jim was remembered for his fairness and good judgment as the first and only Executive Director of INBAR, who is key in setting up and see the Secretariat run smoothly. I have been missing him from time to time all through the years!

Jin Wei



Mousseau Tremblay
1928-2014

Dr. Tremblay was with IDRC from 1985 to 1992 as Director Cooperative Programmes and oversaw its transition to Earth and Engineering Sciences Division. He had a long and distinguished career before and after his time with IDRC.

It is with great sadness that I learned of the death of Mousseau Tremblay. I had the pleasure of working with him for the years he was Director of the Earth Sciences and Engineering. I have lasting memories of those days and of a beautiful friendship.

Mousseau's arrival at IDRC raised many eyebrows. What is an engineer, geologist, diamond specialist; moreover one coming from a multinational company, De Beers, bringing to the Centre's mission? Much, as his achievements demonstrated over the years.

I met Mousseau at a reception for the Board of Governors. He had been invited (he and his lovely wife, Claire) by the Centre immediately after his appointment to meet senior management. I remember a firm and frank handshake and a physically imposing presence. He knew that we were to work together and he told me: "My name is Mr. Mousseau ... not, Doctor Tremblay and you have to *tutoyer* me" It was the only and last time for *vouvoyer*. That had me a little stunned, but the tone was set. A few weeks later, he took up his post and I became his assistant.

Mousseau brought clear direction for the new, and at the time, growing division. He was surrounded by a team of professionals and support staff, multilingual, and from a range of specializations. He was a strong advocate of its staff, for the francophone cause within IDRC, and for the division's programmes.

Among other things, he had an abiding concern for the application of the results of the projects and the impact these would have on the local population.

Mousseau was an impatient man, demanding (on himself and others) and wanted things to 'happen'. He had great respect for his colleague directors but sometimes found that things did not go fast enough for his liking. I saw him come back from a Management Committee - or from project meetings - grumbling that "all this could have been settled in 10 minutes" ... but he knew how to support the common cause. He had great admiration for the work of the Regional Directors.

Mousseau left the Centre at a time when budget cuts made sense for the division he led. He was able to turn the page by returning to private practice and pursuing a long career, well documented on the Internet for those that might be interested. The word "retirement" was not part of his vocabulary.

We did not see each other much in recent years, which I regret, but we kept in touch by phone or mail. Each year, he sent me a long, hand-written, letter, with news of his family, the "tribe" as he affectionately called them. The arrival of a little new grandson / granddaughter gave him great joy. I was delighted to receive these missives from Mousseau telling me also about his many trips, projects and field work around the world. When former colleagues asked me if I had any news of Mousseau, I answered that I was convinced that Mousseau was going to die with a "pick and shovel" in his hands!

In recent years, I knew that he had difficulties with his eyes and his last project was to 'tidy up' all the documentation he had assembled during his long career. This was a project close to his heart and I sincerely hope that he achieved it.

Finally, I remember him as a man of integrity, proud of his convictions. His appearance "gruff" sometimes hiding a profound sensitivity. However, I am convinced that his time at IDRC left no one indifferent.

Thank you my friend, for these beautiful years

Rachel Des Rosiers

See:

<http://investing.businessweek.com/research/stocks/people/person.asp?personId=4973266&ticker=KWG:CN&previousCapId=876354&previousTitle=Diagem%20Inc.>



Kieren Patrick Broadbent
1937-2015

Kieran (Kerry) Broadbent was in the Information Sciences' Division from 1975 to 1994.

Alumni will have the measure of Kerry when they read his Letter to the Editor with memories of IDRC travel in Syria. Observation, engagement, wonder, concern, collegiality were near-synonyms for him. These were the touchstones if work in development was to matter.

I particularly relished a story Kerry shared of the time in his life when as one of the last intake of the

UK's compulsory two years of national service. Given a chance to learn Chinese Kerry, after a year of intense study at the School of Oriental and Asian Studies, was sent off to Hong Kong for a year of total immersion. Towards the end of that year an instructor took Kerry for a walk in the hills behind Hong Kong. As they were coming down into the city an old chap passed them muttering under his breath in Chinese. Kerry turned to his instructor and expressed shock at the news that President Kennedy had been shot. Knowing that this news had come from Kerry's understanding the muttering of the passerby he smiled and declared Kerry's year of immersion proven.

Christopher Smart

Kerry's obituary is found at:

<http://millstonenews.com/2015/03/kieran-broadbent-obituary.html>



Rachel DesRosiers
1951-2015

Rachel DesRosiers was at IDRC from 1979 to 1997.

Rachel was Deputy Director of the Earth and Engineering Sciences division under the leadership of Jim Mullin and later Mousseau Tremblay. She provided strong management support to a unique and diverse group of projects, many of them carried out with Canadian partners.

It is with sorrow that we learned of the sudden and tragic death of Rachel DesRosiers, March 11, 2015.

Rachel was one of the pioneers of Canadian collaborative programs at IDRC in 1980. She contributed to strengthening partnerships with Canadian institutions ensuring the sound management of a unique and diverse set of projects.

In 1988, together with Messrs Jim Mullin, PhD, and Mousseau Tremblay, PhD, she was one of the managers who handled the transition of the Division of Cooperative Programs to the Division of Earth Sciences and Engineering and, in 1992, to the Earth Science and Engineering in Environmental Management and Natural Resources (now Agriculture and Environment). Today, Agriculture and Environment is a fundamental element of IDRC programs.

In 1995, she worked closely with Ray Audet, Senior Vice President, IDRC Resources at reconfiguring the resource sector. Her report is for all purposes the origin of the current configuration of the general management of resources. She led the way.

Rachel's dedication to the goals of IDRC did not wane after leaving the Centre in 1997. Her generous annual donation to the IDRC Alumni in support of a fellowship for young researchers in developing countries demonstrated her commitment to the values of the Centre. We are very grateful for her generosity.

Jean Label, President, IDRC

I cherish memories of Rachel as one of the cadre of Deputy Directors appointed by Ivan Head in the mid 1980s. As her own remembrance for Mousseau Tremblay illustrates Rachel was the best of colleagues: professional in all she did, courageous when straightforward and cogent advice had to be given to her manager, peers and staff. All made admirable because Rachel was kind and respectful with us all.

The news of her untimely passing will sadden a wide circle of former IDRC colleagues.

Christopher Smart

Rachel's obituary is at:

<http://www.domainefuneraire.com/avis-de-deces/Rachel-DESROSIERS-188789>



Barry Moss
1929 - 2014

Barry was with IDRC from 1983 to 1988 to advise on the security for the Regional Offices. As was usual for IDRC the decision provoked the question... Why? And discussion ensued. In retrospect that early concern of then IDRC President, Ivan Head, seems prophetic.

Before coming to IDRC Barry was with the RCMP where at one time he was chief security officer for Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau, accompanying the Prime Minister on his travels home and abroad from 1971 to 1976. The following taken from Pierre: *Colleagues and Friends Talk about the Trudeau They Knew*, edited by Nancy Southam (p 116) says volume about the job and the man.



“On a private vacation trip to the Caribbean (when I first started to travel with Mr. Trudeau) Dr. Joe MacInnis, the PM, and their wives went scuba diving. We went out to a large raft into the ocean and the four of them went diving while I remained aboard the raft. When they surfaced, Mr. Trudeau asked me if I wasn't concerned about him being so long underwater, and didn't I worry about what might happen to him?

“No sir,” I said. “My job is to protect you from others, not yourself”

Alioune Camara

Reading the IN MEMORIAM in the December Bulletin Alumni have sent news of these web sites with remembrances of Alioune

<http://osiris.sn/Alioune-Badara-Camara-1951-2014-Un.html>

Kathryn Touré

<http://www.kathryntoure.net/2014/08/30/alioune-badara-camara-1951-2014-un-grand-monsieur-s-en-est-alle-a-big-man-has-departed/>



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at "IDRC Alumni" group and / or "IDRC" page.*



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