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

Bulletin

No. 52 / October 2017

Annual General Meeting & Luncheon: Tuesday, November 7, 2017

Invitation and RSVP sent through *Evite*

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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 | \$25 |
| 2 years | \$45 |
| 3 years | \$65 |

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

Return to: Kim Daley, 452 River Rd, Ottawa, ON. K1V 1E7

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>

Annual General Meeting & Luncheon: Tuesday, November 7, 2017
This year we honour ARO
Invitation and RSVP sent through Evite

From the Chair

Rob Robertson

What's in a Name?

The infection of acronyms was always a barrier for newcomers to IDRC. “What’s I---- ?” people would ask. (They mostly began with I.) But after a while jumbles of letters would become a language we would master, as we joined the cognoscenti in confusing the newbies.



Some acronyms do evolve into meaningful words. The internet informs me that “scuba” was once “self-contained underwater breathing apparatus” and “laser” was once “light amplification by stimulated emission of radiation.” But mostly the acronyms just lie there as unpleasant parts of the language. Wasn’t it a finer time when we referred to our foreign ministry as “External” than the undignified D-FAT-D or the cacophonous GAC?

But real words are now fighting back. ICRAF has become the World Agroforestry Centre, MI has become Nutrition International, and DFID now brands itself as UK aid. Is it too late for IDRC to change? Jim Pfeifer once told me that the practice in the Government of Canada in the early 1970s was to name things exactly what they were. Thus the ungainly “International Development Research Centre” was affixed to this new creation, and of course shortened to IDRC, or is that IRDC; I’m always forgetting.

It is perhaps too late for “IDRC” to be changed, though a “Name the Centre” contest would be fun. Nevertheless we can applaud the little trend in development speak toward meaningful words and away from alphabet soup.



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A new year begins for the IDRC Alumni Association

Support

As a new year begins for the IDRC Alumni, we would like to remind our members about how the Association functions and to ask for your continued support.

To be a member of the Association former employees need only indicate that they want to be members. Using this approach, we have grown our membership to 480. The Alumni Bulletin is provided to all members on an “open source” basis and all members are invited to the Annual General Meeting.

Like all organizations we do have some costs, mostly for technology-related purposes to produce the Bulletin, pay for translation, send out AGM invitations and build our web site. The AGM is a better than break even event as we charge for the lunch and IDRC makes a generous contribution. And very

importantly, we maintain with the Centre the Rachel DesRosiers Award for young researchers. Alumni and others wishing to honour Rachel have contributed \$62,000 matched with \$89,400 from IDRC for a total of \$120,400. In order to continue these activities, we encourage all members to be “Supporters” of the Alumni, making a financial contribution as a tangible show of appreciation and encouragement for us to continue. The new support levels are:

One year: \$25 Two years: \$45 Three years: \$65

There’s one other change to start the new Alumni year. After many years as Membership/Support Secretary Donna Bickford hands the file to Kim Daley. Huge thanks to Donna for her efforts to keep us in touch and best wishes to Kim as she gets ready for the rush of new members and supporters. She’ll be in contact, letting you know all about how to make a contribution.

@ New email address

And did you catch the new email address for the Alumni on the Bulletin masthead?



Web site “Under Development”

Webmaster Ed Brandon is guiding the development of an IDRC Alumni website wholly owned by the Alumni. The core features of the site will be the *IDRC Alumni Bulletin* Current Issue and Archive, *A Stroll Down Memory Lane*, *Alumni in Print* and the *IN MEMORIAM Book*. Once up and running we’ll be open to suggestions for features and links.

Would you like to assist with maintenance of the site?

IDRC Alumni Executive

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Where Are They Now?

Anne Whyte and Robert Auger have been on a research adventure. For the past four winters they have returned to the locale in Mexico where, fifty years ago, Anne did her doctoral research. That research was referenced in [1491: New Revelations of the Americas Before Columbus by Charles C. Mann](#). And that led to a phone call....

Ed



FIFTY YEARS AND COUNTING

Anne Whyte

It began with a phone call. Reassuring the caller that I was indeed still alive and I had kept my old

pencil and paper field notes, I began to mentor an American graduate student who was about to study one of “my villages” in Oaxaca, Mexico. Her questions prodded me to explore the imagery of *Google Earth* and discover – to my astonishment – that I could trace on my computer screen the same field boundaries that I had walked around so many times in the 1960s to study the land use changes and agricultural strategies of traditional Zapotec farmers. There were no good maps then of southern Mexico and one of my roles as “geographer” to the archeological expedition that paid for my PhD research was to make field maps for the expedition.



As our phone conversations progressed, I hatched the idea that perhaps I could return to the same villages and re-visit my research some 50 years on. And that is what I, or rather, *we* did - for my husband, Robert Auger, became an essential and enthusiastic partner in this endeavor.

In many ways, I was lucky in my choice of field area. Except for one community where the land is now managed by a subsidiary of Coca-Cola and every trace of former subsistence fields has been erased, traditional land rights have preserved old boundaries. And a still vibrant Zapotec culture has retained much of the social and ecological support networks that underlie subsistence agriculture.

Again to my amazement, in 2017 almost everyone in the Valley of Oaxaca still cultivates native (*criollo*) varieties of maize for their own food. This is maize that is closely adapted to local growing conditions through the efforts of generations of farmers saving their own seeds. Every farmer we spoke to prefers to grow and eat *criollo* maize, despite the efforts of Monsanto since 1960s to promote hybrid maize, and competition from cheap US maize exported to Mexico under NAFTA.

Zapotec subsistence farmers are traditionally risk averse. While hybrids do well when there is adequate rainfall or irrigation, there is nothing like access to a diversity of native crop varieties to keep poor families alive when the notoriously erratic rains of Oaxaca come early, or late, or not at all.

I was also fortunate because my 50-year time span, although long for quantitative agricultural data in Mexico, was a drop in the bucket for measured time spans in the Valley of Oaxaca - where the density of well-excavated archeological sites is among the highest in the world. Some of the earliest evidence of crop domestication in the Americas was found by our expedition in the 1960s in Oaxaca (first squash, second maize and third, beans, beginning some 8,000 years ago). Subsequent research has shown that the fields that I measured in 1966-70 and 2014-2017 have been cultivated more or less continuously without chemical inputs for thousands of years. Now *that* is sustainable agriculture.



What is it like to revisit a piece of research that is 50 years old? First there is the very real challenge of coping with new research technology. I had to call on the services of a grandson to write the code that enabled me to statistically compare my (now-digital) crayoned crop maps across 50 years. Second, there are the wonderful moments in the field when someone sees a person or a place in my old photos and smiles with genuine recognition. Then, past and present come together, and conversation flows.

Today in even remote villages, I see the positive signs of development that so many of us at IDRC worked for – drinking water pipes and latrines, women entrepreneurs, healthy children running home from school. I also see the environmental detritus from development projects that worked for a while – or not at all.

Then there are the changes in me – older and slower - but without the need to trim my research framework to the requirements of a thesis, or a project funder. I can indulge myself in broader questions about the nature of sustainable development. In Oaxaca, sustainability is not just conservatism – after all it is one of the cradles of that biggest of big leaps in human history – the Neolithic Revolution.



Sustainable development has to do with strong local land control – *pueblos* in Oaxaca are known for their fierce independence. Zapotec farmers express a spiritual duty of care for their land, water and soil – a reverence for their environment that they share with First Nations in Canada. And they look to the long term, sometimes growing maize varieties not to eat today but to keep the seed viable for future generations.

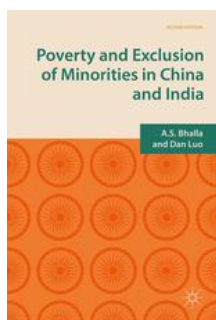
Education and out-migration has drained the fields of young people and both are linking Oaxaca's fortunes to the global economy. Fifty years ago when the first handful of irrigation pumps and tractors appeared in the Valley, I predicted the end of sustainable agriculture. I was wrong. Today I see globalization and education as the inexorable drivers of change towards a growth economy that will render age-old sustainable practices in rural Oaxaca as non-viable. I could be wrong again. I hope so.

As they say, it's complicated.

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Alumni in Print

Ajit Bhalla



Poverty and Exclusion of Minorities in China and India

A. S. Bhalla and Dan Luo

This is an update of a highly praised book that sheds light on an understudied topic, draws on brand new empirical data in every chapter and adds discussion on contemporary political and economic issues that have affected the global landscape over the past 5 years.

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John Hardie, Norma Geggie, Joan Garnett, Jo Leath, Mary Lou van Schaik: *Coming to Wakefield and other stories*. Chelsea Books. 2017. ISBN: 978-1-926570-10-5



From tales about coming to Wakefield to fond memories of childhood and growing up; from surprising adventures to nimble fiction — the five authors of this collection offer stories culled from five years of meeting regularly as a writing group.

By turns informative, amusing, ironic and charming, these stories reflect the magic that happens when curiosity is given expression.

Net proceeds from the sale of *Coming to Wakefield and Other Stories* will be donated to La Maison des Collines palliative care home project.

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Gallery



Mike Graham with his mistress's sisters at the British Motor Museum in Gaydon, UK summer 2017.



Mike and the mistress.

§

The David and Ruth Hopper and Ramesh and Pilar Bhatia Canada Fund



Rachana Devkota, a permanent resident of Canada from Nepal, is completing her PhD at the University of Guelph. Her research is entitled: *Gender Transformative Approach to Agriculture Innovation System in Nepal*. She submitted a very impressive application and the evaluation comments were extremely positive. Her recommendations were glowing. Completely “serendipitously”, she has been working in recent years on an IDRC-supported project which has recently received some press when it was [featured](#) in *Charting Change*, an innovative partnership of IDRC with Canadian Geographic. Her research will continue to add value to the work begun through this project and related activities.

Claire Thompson, IDRC

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The Rachel DesRosiers Alumni Award

ARO 2017-2018

The award will support **The Centre for Bhutan Studies and GNH Research** (formerly The Centre for Bhutan Studies) a research institute located in Thimphu, Bhutan, established in 1999 to promote research and scholarship on Bhutan. The Centre for Bhutan Studies and GNH is the Secretariat of [International Society for Bhutan Studies \(ISBS\)](#).



ISBS will organize a launch conference in August 2018 at the Magdalen College (University of Oxford) to map current policy relevant areas requiring cutting-edge research in Bhutan. The grant will cover the mentoring and participation of four young Bhutanese scholars at the conference. As a first step ISBS is conducting a competitive process to select candidates.

The award this year will be \$15,000 of which the Alumni's contribution will be \$1,000 and the Rachel DesRosiers Fund will contribute \$5,000.

ROSSA 2017-2016

The University of Rwanda has nominated the following graduate students for the Rachel DesRosiers Alumni Award:



Elias Nelly Bapfakurera is studying for an MSc in Agroforestry and Soil Management: *The role of indigenous Knowledge systems in adopting agroforestry and soil conservation for sustainable agriculture practices in Rwanda: Case of Musanze and Nyabihu Districts.*

Ildephonse Munyaneza is studying for an MSc in Economics in the School of Economics, College of Business and Economics: *Visual Modeling of the relationship between Financial Literacy and the Performance of Social Innovations in Rwanda.*



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IN MEMORIAM



Gelia Castillo
1928 - 2017

*"Ethics is ethics in the mind and the heart.
You know it from the top of your brain to the tip of your toes."*

The Centre was privileged to have Dr Castillo serve as a member of its Board of Governors for eleven years from 1979-1990. Dr Castillo was instrumental in helping the Board develop IDRC's first true strategic plan along with a Cooperative Programs Unit (CPU) which provided greater collaboration between Canadian scientists and scientists in the global South.

Throughout her tenure with IDRC she remained a strong advocate for social change for the rural poor.

She played a critical role in reorienting rural development and research and teaching in the Philippines, and hence more broadly in Asia and globally through her international service work, towards interdisciplinary and participatory development, always with a laser focus on research for social change.

In 2000, Dr Castillo was one of the principal evaluators of IDRC's very successful Economy and Environment Program for Southeast Asia which was instrumental in building capacity and ensuring research was applied at the local level and allowing researchers to provide advice to policy makers.

Alumni remember Professor Castillo

I worked at IDRC from 1973-1986 and had the privilege of working closely with Dr. Castillo during my tenure as IDRC Asia Regional Director in Singapore and later as the Southeast Asia Regional Director when IDRC opened the South Asia office in Delhi.

During those years when Dr. Castillo was an IDRC Board of Directors member I always considered her as my mentor not only she guided me in the development research program in the Philippines but also in South East Asia.

Her advice helped strengthen research capabilities and research institution building in the region. Dr. Castillo was instrumental in creating the golden age of development research in the '80s and '90s.

Her passing is a great loss to the international research community. Her legacy will stay with those who are related to IDRC work, especially myself.

Jingjai Hanchanlash

I remember Gelia not only as a distinguished Filipino rural sociologist and prolific author of several books and publications but as an outstanding member of the IDRC Board of Governors for three terms. She served for a total of 11 years from 1979 to 1990, contributing her time, energy and ideas to guide

IDRC in the formulation and evaluation of its programs. She never missed a Board meeting and was known among members for having a firm but gentle way of focusing discussions where they should be whenever a topic went out of bounds. She will always be remembered by those who knew her with respect and affection.

Aprodicio "Prod" Laquian

I remember Gelia as a fierce defender of community rights and passionate about research that could make a difference. She took a special interest in social sciences projects so I had to be well prepped for them at the Board meetings.

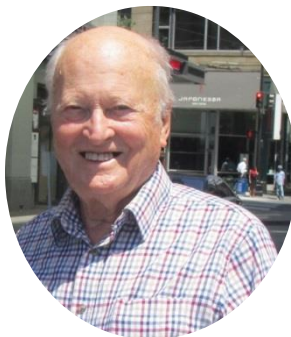
Gelia was one of those governors who did her homework and really cared about what our projects could do for the poor. She had a lot of field experience and knew what made communities work together - or not. I very much enjoyed talking with her and learning along the way. As a Governor, she was very approachable and enjoyed talking to staff. She was a great supporter of the Social Sciences Division and understood the importance of a people-centred approach to development.

Anne Whyte

For more on the life of Dr. Castillo [Philippine National Scientist Gelia Castillo passes away at 89](#)

Philippines Sociological Society IN MEMORIAM ... [Our National Scientist, Dr. Gelia T. Castillo.](#)

§



Geoff Oldham
1929-2017

“We do not understand all the problems of development – especially the problems of societies with different social and political systems and values to our own... some components of industrialized societies are relevant to the needs of developing societies and ... this knowledge can be transferred... however, that much basic knowledge needed to promote development has yet to be discovered. It will be the purpose of the Centre to help discover this knowledge and to find out how best it can be used to promote development. It is also the purpose to help the developing countries to acquire their own problem solving capabilities.”¹

Professor Geoffrey Oldham was a true pioneer and international leader in science and technology for international development. He passed away on September 30. IDRC and Canada were enduring parts of his life.

¹ [Working Paper discussing strategy for the establishment of IDRC](#)

In 1966, Geoff co-founded the Science Policy Research Unit (SPRU) at the University of Sussex. The institution was a global first, pioneering and advancing thought and empirical evidence linking the potential of science and technology to enabling policies, fiscal, educational, industrial, institutional, social or political.

At a United Nations conference in 1969, Geoff and [Maurice Strong](#), the first CIDA president, met for the first time. Geoff shared with Maurice his conclusion that the ruling premise in development thinking and practice of transferring scientific knowledge and technologies from advanced to developing countries was seriously flawed. Such transfer might help but could never confer sustained developmental benefits. For that to happen, countries would need to establish, develop, nurture and advance their own (endogenous) capabilities in science and technology.

That conversation was the eureka moment that, with Maurice Strong's backing and political acumen, would lead to the birth of IDRC, a very different Crown Corporation, financed by Canada and governed by a board where both Canadians and nationals from developing regions had a mandate to catalyze endogenous science and technology capacity in developing countries.

Maurice recruited Geoff from SPRU to work with a small group on the architecture of the new 'Crown', including the drafting of the legislation that in 1971, with all party support in parliament, established the International Development Research Centre.

This furthered Geoff's bond with Canada that went back to his MSc and PhD studies in geophysics at the University of Toronto under Professor [John Tuzo Wilson](#), acclaimed for his contributions to advanced theories of geophysics and geology.

Following completion of his doctorate and extensive travels in Latin America, Geoff became seized by a new global focus on what came to be termed 'international development' with new initiatives and new institutions to bring poorer nations the benefits of economic and social well-being enjoyed in 'advanced economies'. This quickly became the leitmotif of his professional and personal life. In seeking to understand development, he became fascinated by the question of how China, arguably paramount in 1400, had become one of the world's weakest countries by 1900. He wondered if China, then a closed, isolated and largely poor agricultural country could return to its past glories.

Geoff used a fellowship from the Institute of Current World Affairs and moved to Hong Kong to study Mandarin and the history and state of science and technology in several Asian countries. That experience led Geoff to understand that the development potential of nations required mobilizing to master the power of science and technology and that this, in turn, required enlightened and informed policy frameworks at all levels; national, regional municipal, within and between firms.

From that experience Geoff imagined and eventually implemented the Science and Technology Policy Programme within the Social Sciences Division of the IDRC. Geoff was the Associate Director of the STP Programme from 1970 to 1980, splitting his time with his Deputy Directorships at SPRU.

Geoff returned to the Centre as my Science Advisor from 1992 to 1996. He took up the cause of the serious gender imbalance in Science and Technology and became a trusted member of the UN advisory group that guided and helped organize the [North and Latin America Gender Summit](#). He was a member of the [Gender Advisory Committee to the Academy of Sciences of the Developing World](#).

Geoff continued his connections with Canada as a member of the Council of Canadian Academies' [Expert Panel on Women in University Research](#) .

Geoff was Commander of the Order of the British Empire (CBE) and in 2006 he received an Honorary Doctorate of Laws from York University.

It is conceivable that there would never have been an IDRC without Geoff Oldham. His vision, constancy, guidance and commitment for three decades have been central to its success.

Keith Bezanson

Ancient history with Geoff Oldham (and an update)

It all began in the early 1970s, when we were all young and slightly crazier than we are now. A conference in Lima and Cusco —with an unforgettable side trip to Macchu Picchu— gave me the opportunity to meet Geoff.

Geoff had been involved in the creation of the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) in Canada, and was the head of its science and technology program. The meeting in Lima and Cusco, organized by Maximo Halty of the Organization of American States (OAS), helped him to identify potential projects to support.

The journey into Cusco was quite eventful, including an interesting stopover of a few hours at the “Hotel de Turistas” (where, together with Geoff and Chris Freeman, we interrupted a honeymoon couple more than once); a train journey stopped twice by landslides (which led to a lot of singing and drinking, including the future rector of the United Nations University, while waiting for the earth removal crew); and a wonderful visit to the ruins and overnight stay at the hotel next to Macchu Picchu.

On the way back from Cusco the plane was delayed several hours, and we had an impromptu meeting at the hotel to talk about what would eventually become the Science and Technology Policy Instruments (STPI) project supported by IDRC and the OAS. When we flew back to Lima, several senior Peruvian and international officials refused to board the plane: it was overloaded, a storm was moving into the area and it was most dangerous to take off.

Geoff and I were foolish enough to board the flight and —if we survived— we promised to buy each other a pint of Guinness every time we met. By and large we kept our promise, although we later migrated to wine from stout. So, our friendship began with a combination of academic interests, a commitment to development, a passion for travel, and a shared obsession with good drinking.

In subsequent years we would meet in many different places, first in meetings of the STPI Project, then during the dissemination of STPI results, and after that in the Vienna Conference on Science and Technology for Development, as members of the United Nations Advisory Committee on Science and technology for Development, and in many other capacities, including the time both of us spent advising the (in)famous Dr. Keith Bezanson when he was President of IDRC.

The best way of remembering these thirty years is through some pictures of Geoff, as he grows and matures over time. Take a look at the [PowerPoint presentation honouring of Geoff fifteen in 2002](#),

when we went back to Macchu Picchu for another meeting.



After the return to Macchu Picchu we continued to work together, meeting in various places. The most recent gathering was a reunion of the STPI gang in Lima in 2014 —40 years after the start of the project— to review what had happened since then. The [report of the event](#) contains a chapter by Geoff, and a picture of the STPI coordinators.

Last July, Keith and I visited Geoff for the last time. It was a bittersweet moment for all of us, but it was also great to spend time with him before he passed away just a few weeks later.

We are most grateful for having had the chance to be close to such a great person, and his memory will be with us forever.

Francisco Sagasti, Lima

Many will write about Geoff and his many achievements. His life touched many hundreds of people all over the world.

As a person who worked with him for a short time in a marginal capacity, I would like to remark on his generosity and encouragement. He always seemed to have a good word for everyone and even if one was screwing up, he never said so or tried to apportion blame or take credit (often much deserved). Rather he always kept his mind on the big picture, which in his case was the paramount importance of development, and for which the IDRC was a facilitator never a lead actor. Activities might be shared but never owned.

It took me some time to realize how wise this view was and is. This was an ethic of development, which sprang from his own consistent and generous nature, and which he held with a twinkle in his eye, lightly but firmly. He provided a standard, which was and is very difficult to reach.

He will be much missed by his friends, as an example to his colleagues, and to his dear wife Brenda.

Tony Tillett

I first met Geoff on a cold crisp morning in Delhi, January or February of 1976, at the Management Development Institute. Before the meeting there was a phone call. In those days humans answered phones and I was told a Professor Oldham wished to speak to me. I agreed to a meeting, with no idea of why and who he was. He explained when we met that he had been to the first meeting of development research and training centres in Asia held in Australia, where the Chairman of my institute had presented a research paper I had prepared for joint work on technology diffusion and innovation as a prime source of economic growth. We discussed the paper and I was impressed by his interest in my work.

I was invited to a planning meeting of a dozen Asian researchers, some months later, with Geoff accompanied by Martin Bell of SPRU, on the research and policy issues of technology and development in Asia. Only then did I learn a little about IDRC and SPRU, the two major organizational affiliations and love of Geoff throughout his life. But I knew very little about Geoff, or IDRC, or SPRU, and I could not go to Google and check any of it out.

Our common interests on the role of scientific knowledge and technological change on economic development, led to ongoing and deeper engagements – in Indonesia, Korea, Sussex and then to an Asian research network on the topic. Each event widened my perspectives and contacts with the community of STP researchers, where Geoff, SPRU and IDRC were often the common denominators. With Geoff's departure from IDRC, to return to SPRU, I joined IDRC in the programme he had begun and he continued to provide his advice and support in all our major ventures.

My most recent memories of Geoff include working with him to evaluate the STP programme at UNESCO, followed by meetings in Ottawa on gender in science, and the very happy reunion in Lima in 2014 of the members and associates of the earliest STP work supported by IDRC as recalled by Francisco.

There are many ways of remembering Geoff. While we wait for more formal biographies, the pictures and Powerpoint by Francisco, the collection of material in the IDRC library, and thoughts of Brenda and their family, all add to our memories of an amazing person – dedicated to development issues and approaches in ways that were not always fashionable, and who affected positively so many in their lives, as indeed he did for me over a forty year span.

Amitav Rath

For me Geoff was one of those mysterious inevitabilities in life.

I first met Geoff at the obligatory morning tea break at SPRU when a student there in 1970. When he realized I was 'the Canadian' he shared news of the exciting project taking place in Ottawa that kept him making frequent trips across the Atlantic. I learned about IDRC. On further chats over tea and buns thoughts of working there nested wherever it is in the brain that logs possibilities.

When I switched out of a history thesis on eugenics it was Geoff who opened the door to policy-oriented topics.

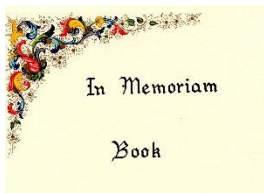
The inevitable happened in 1979, on a last minute decision to attend the IDRC Seminar to report on the *United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development* (UNCSTD). Neill McKee, a friend from CUSO, then working as the Centre's filmmaker, told me 'my prof. from Sussex' was at the seminar. After another of our chats Geoff asked if I would consider applying for a position in the Science and Technology Policy Programme. I did and thank Geoff for translating the possibilities of those chats over tea in SPRU to the privilege of work with IDRC.

I was delighted when Keith brought Geoff back to the Centre as his special advisor on Science and Technology Policy and with the opportunity of working with him again.

Christopher Smart

For more of Geoff's days as a '[China Watcher](#)'

The IN MEMORIAM book on line



.. Click for the [IDRC Alumni *IN MEMORIAM* album](#)

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Bulletin Archive on Line



Past issues of the IDRC Alumni Bulletin, from the first edition in January 2003, are now available in the [ARCHIVE folder](#). The ARCHIVE folder has subfolders for each year, starting in 2003, and each year folder has a subfolder for English and another for Français. Bilingual bulletins are copied under each of the language folders.

Bulletins for 1 to 26 are either English or French. From 27-39 they are bilingual and from 40 on, either English or French.

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Donate to the Government of Canada Workplace Charitable Campaign (GCWCC)

IDRC Alumni members are invited again this year to contribute to the GCWCC through IDRC employees' campaign.

You probably remember IDRC's strong participation in the annual fundraising drive for charitable organizations. Your gift can be directed to support United Way/Centraide and Healthpartners, or any other registered Canadian charity of your choice. Every gift makes a difference in our community.

The 2017 campaign – *I Give...* - was launched on September 29th.

Alumni contributions are always highly appreciated. This year, if you are planning to contribute to the GCWCC, you can make your gift in such a way that it can be included as part of the IDRC campaign.

If you are receiving your pension you should by now have received an invitation to give to the campaign. Instead of returning it directly to the United Way office, you can send it to: Ashley Farquharson, IDRC, PO Box 8500, Ottawa, Ontario K1G 3H9.

If you are not yet receiving your pension, and want to make a donation, you can contact Ashley Farquharson (613-696-2324), or email afarquharson@idrc.ca who will send you a Gift Form, which you can return with your donation. IDRC will forward all donations and forms to GCWCC and will add your donation to the total raised from current IDRC employees to help us achieve our campaign goal.

Thank you for your support.

Fabienne Glauser, Marissa Farruggia, Patricia Alves, 2017 IDRC-GCWCC Organizing Committee

Please note that pledges are not automatically renewed – if you would like to donate this year, you must renew your pledge



*Don't be shy? Join IDRC Alumni on Facebook:
at "IDRC Alumni" group and / or "IDRC" page.*



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