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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. 55 October 2018

**Annual General Meeting & Luncheon: Tuesday, November 13, 2018
Honoring LACRO**

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IDRC - Government of Canada Workplace Charitable Campaign (GCWCC) 2018

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 13, 2018 Honoring LACRO¹

Watch for the invitation and RSVP through *Evite*

From the Chair

Rob Robertson

Fresh Faces, Fresh Ideas

I'm sure we are all enjoying retirement, spending more time with our friends, doing the things we actually like to do. But for me, there is one thing missing...young people. It was a great pleasure every spring to welcome students to IDRC, especially those with whom I worked closely. The general idea was to provide them with practical experience, expose them to the Centre's mission, and get some work done on all those little projects we weren't getting done ourselves.



One benefit of students, and one thing I miss, is exposure to the fresh views they brought. When I was a student at the Centre and in my early years there I tried to elevate topics like human rights and research ethics into the more traditional views about development support. And so it was with subsequent students that I supervised and so it must have been in other Centre offices...fresh ideas from fresh faces. And of course there has been pleasure in

seeing students progress after working at the Centre, in my case they became general counsels in both the private and public sector, a city solicitor, an ambassador, and who knows what else.

Chris Smart recounts a perfect example of the value of summer students: “Erin O’Manique achieved a masterpiece as a student. FAD was about to have a Board Review. Gerry Bourrier had arrived as the new Director. The first task was to write the Who? What? Where? Why? How? document the Board Panel would expect. I had just discovered that there was data stored in the Centre's first generation computers. I sort of knew that there were ways to access the data and arrange it into tables that would answer those questions. On the day of her arrival I sent Erin off to see how that was done. Erin climbed a steep learning curve and within days showed me what was possible, then worked until she pushed the system to produce "better than basic" to give us the masterpiece.... the blue pages of tables in the paper FAD did for the Board. I worked with one of the reviewers years later and learned those blue pages were noticed.”

And so our thanks to all those who were students at the Centre, some of whom are also Alumni and are reading this, and who brought new skills and perspectives into the Centre's life and work.

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¹ MERO was in sequence for the Rachel Des Rosier Award this year. However, with MERO in transition to new offices in Amman, Jordan LACRO comes forward. MERO will be honoured in 2019.

Alumni News

Erin O'Manique

Browsing a recent newsletter from Karen Learning and Education Opportunities ([KLEO](#)) this was spotted in a *Meet Our Board feature*....



Erin is a woman who, wherever she goes, puts down roots to make the world a better place. As a board member since 2013, she has enriched KLEO immensely with her energy, expertise, enthusiasm and extraordinary work ethic.

Over her 5 years with KLEO, Erin has offered her expertise as board secretary, Karen family friend and support person. She has branched out to coordinate K'nyaw Sie, the Karen farm, an acre plot in the Just Food Farm in Ottawa. Many Karen people have traditionally farmed for generations in Burma and Thailand and having land to farm in Ottawa is deeply nourishing and healing. The farm is good medicine, providing culturally appropriate healthy food for many households as well as providing a community space where the youth can connect to their culture and learn from their elders.

Erin has shared countless hours of hard work digging, planting, weeding, harvesting and preparing Community Supported Agriculture boxes alongside the Karen people. As well she has worked “behind the rows” applying for grants, purchasing seeds, supplies and equipment, repairing water lines and completing the huge amount of paper work for the farm’s organic certification.

Aside from all this she is a wife, mother, sister, daughter, friend, social activist and beautiful soprano singer who works full time as the director of the Gloucester Emergency Food Cupboard! She’s a strong voice for sustainable food systems in the Ottawa area and throughout the world.



With great gratitude, we tip our hats to Erin and in her honour let’s buy as much local food as we can!

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Stuart Brown

‘Collared again’

The Bulletin ([No. 34. March 2013](#)) reported that Stuart Brown, one time Social Science RPO in WARO, had been ordained and given charge of [All Saint’s Anglican Church, Aklavik, NWT](#). Stuart retired earlier this year and he and Margaret reside in Vernon B.C. After a few months of R&R Stuart and Margret are on the move again. Stuart has a *locum tenens* vicar of the parish of [Christ Church, Kitimat](#) and from September through January 2019 when he will be interim principal of the [Kootenay School of Ministry](#).



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Gisèle Morin Labatut

Gisèle invites us to...

Mexican Fiesta Enjoy a Night Out and Support Refugee Sponsorship!

Two local Ottawa refugee sponsorship groups have joined together to organize a Mexican Fiesta, with a mariachi band, Mexican food, and dancing, in order to raise funds in support of their sponsorship undertakings.

The Ottawa South Committee for Refugee Sponsorship and Resettlement Support Ottawa invite you to a Mexican Fiesta on Saturday, October 13, at St. Thomas the Apostle Anglican Church, 2345 Alta Vista Drive, in Ottawa. The festivities begin at 6:30 pm.

These two groups are sponsoring refugees from the Middle East, Africa and South East Asia. Together, they have sponsored over 25 refugees who have now arrived or whose applications are now being processed in their country of refuge.



Enjoy a night out to support
refugee sponsorships

Mexican

CASH BAR
(beer & wine)

TICKETS \$40
through
Eventbrite.ca or
\$50 at the door

Fiesta

Saturday October 13th 6:30-11 pm

Dance to El Mariachi Fiesta band
Food by Ola Cocina

ST THOMAS THE APOSTLE ANGLICAN CHURCH
2345 ALTA VISTA DRIVE - AMPLE PARKING

Your hosts: Ottawa South Refugee Committee &
Resettlement Support Ottawa. Sponsoring refugees from
the Middle East, Africa & South East Asia
Contact rsottawa2018@gmail.com

Tickets at \$40 are available through [Eventbrite.ca](https://www.eventbrite.ca), or \$50 dollars at the door. This amount covers authentic Mexican cuisine prepared by Ola Cocina restaurant and music by a local Mexican band, El Mariachi Fiesta. Host for the evening is Allan “Big Al” Budzin, an Anglican priest and saxophone player.

For Further Information, contact:

Robert Taylor, Ottawa South Committee for Refugee Sponsorship

r_taylor@rogers.com

Cornelius von Baeyer, Resettlement Support Ottawa

cvb@magma.ca

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The Geoffrey Oldham Memorial Scholarships



The latest news from the University of Sussex is that the funds for the scholarships to remember Geoff has increased, enabling ten scholarships. The first four scholars will register in October.

There is a video the university prepared: [In Memory of Geoff Oldham 17 February 1929 – 1 October 2017](#).

Geoff's early work as one of the UK's 'China watchers' is highlighted in this video [Fifty Years of Chinese Science and Technology: Some personal impression](#).

Ed

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Gallery



We knew him as an Economist now we know him as a Musician and Photographer.

I caught David at Festival Japan last November. Wonderful! [Click](#) to see more. [Click](#) to hear more.

Ed



David worked at IDRC for over 25 years, first in Ottawa and later in Singapore. He has been photographing the world since 1974 and will show a collection of his images at GigSpace Gallery in Ottawa in November. "The exhibit, titled "Here and There", shows that exotic locations aren't necessary for striking images. Beauty can be found literally in your own back yard. The show offers visual surprises from around the world: water drops on a patio table ... shoppers reflected in a store window in Singapore ... a garden that isn't quite there. These photographs invite the viewer to look at the world in a new way and

find the jewels that hide in plain sight."

"It's not what you look at that counts, it's what you see." - Henry David Thoreau

The show runs for the month of November. The gallery is located at 953 Gladstone Avenue in Ottawa and is open Monday thru Thursday 3-9 pm and during evening music performances. Free parking is available on site. www.gigspace.ca 613-729-0693

From the Archives

Current tropes ...fake news / alternative facts/ truth is not the truth / enemies of the people... prompt a trek to the archives.

Writing Development News



Derek Ingram
1925-2018

News of the death of Derek Ingram prompts memories from the mid-1980s when I was with the Fellowships and Awards Davison (FAD).

“... in the office of the Daily Mail when deputy editor... He quit over the paper's stance on apartheid and went on to found a news agency that breathed life into the careers of many developing-world journalists.” [Ottawa Citizen, July 4, 2018.](#)

“When the ink on his typewriter turned from black to red, Derek Ingram, ... wondered if he had been drinking too much. It was only when the carriage on his Olivetti opened that he noticed the flattened body of an unfortunate lizard.” [The Times, Aug. 14, 2018.](#)

The story of Derek’s remarkable life was covered by **Chris Cobb** in the *Ottawa Citizen*.

The link with IDRC came through one former and the ten current Centre Director of Communications. Both **Clyde Sanger**, the Centre’s first Director of Communications, and **Bob Huggan**² started their careers as journalists with papers in East Africa. Both understood what was needed for the Centre’s story, ‘Research for International Development’ to be reported to Canadians.

In 1967 Derek Ingram started the Gemini News Service, an independent news agency, based in Britain, specialising in international and development journalism.

The first of the Canadian Gemini alumni, **Jane Taber**, remembers how the Centre became connected with Gemini: “It was supposed to be a ‘one-off.’ I had won an IDRC fellowship to go to Nigeria for the year 1983-4. This fellowship was for young people, and involved living in Africa for a year to research and write on development. You had to design and sell your project. My plan fell through and we had to think again.



² An *In Memoriam* for Bob can be found in the [Bulletin No. 23, June 2011](#).

“I was put in touch with Clyde Sanger, and he suggested to Derek that I might use the fellowship to work most of the year at Gemini in London and travel for research to Africa. I ended up going to Zimbabwe, Zambia and Tanzania for five weeks.

“This is where Bob Huggan comes in. I had known Bob at Carleton University when I was doing my journalism degree. Loved the guy!! He was solidly behind my going to Gemini. As part of my assignment I sent back regular reports...always enthusiastic and positive. I was learning so much and having the time of my life! My reports made an impression on Bob and the IDRC.

“As a result of how successful the entire year had been for me, it was decided to establish the Gemini fellowship, with a panel choosing a young journalist each year. I am very proud of this!” **Jane Taber**, vice-president public affairs, National Public Relations.

Over several years IDRC support enabled more than twenty Canadian journalists to go abroad under Gemini auspices. Read what some other Canadian Gemini Alumni have to say:

“A couple of dozen Canadian journalists had their eyes opened to the developing world through Gemini....For me, as a reporter, it was a fantastic experience.” Former *Toronto Star* reporter **Allan Thompson**, now a Carleton University journalism professor.

“Gemini pioneered the concept of journalists living and working in the countries they were writing about, and the service was reasonably priced, so it gave mid-size news outlets in the developing world a wire service written by their own journalists....I ended up in places I never thought I'd be, including India. Even more importantly, the opportunity to work with Gemini showed me how very different my views of the world were from those of people who lived in the countries I was travelling through. They saw the world in a very different light. It challenged a lot of assumptions.” *Ottawa Citizen* editorial page editor **Christina Spencer**.

"It was a privilege to work at Gemini for a few months, straight out of the University of Regina's journalism program. I was astounded by Derek's breadth of knowledge and depth of passion – and learned quickly just how much I *didn't* know about the world in general, and Africa in particular.” **Sharon Gerein**, CBC Regina.

"In an era when so much reporting was "parachute journalism," the Gemini philosophy was to work with journalists who lived in (and were from) the countries they reported on. Derek believed in this as passionately as anything. And while I would later report from countries where I was the outsider, I like to believe I carried this lesson with me – trying to convey the stories of local people from *their* perspective, not mine.

It was a valuable lesson to learn early in a journalism career – and there wasn't a better role model than Derek and Gemini." **Scott Simmie** is a former CBC National and *Toronto Star* journalist.

The Centre's support for Gemini and the broader effort to make links between lives in developing regions (its priority) and Canadians (its bankers) was an example of how, in the early days of the Centre, there were initiatives where the Centre responded to informed intuition and good 'let's get this done' ideas that were off the core program arc.

The Centre has done its part to preserve the news and feature articles that the Gemini service produced which document decades of international development.

“With the help of an IDRC grant, the Guardian News and Media Archive was able to catalogue these records in 2009. The [Gemini archive catalogue](#) is available to search online, and records can be accessed by appointment in the GNA reading room in King’s Cross, London.”

In addition to Gemini IDRC's support to journalism included [SciDev.net](#), the [World Federation of Science Journalists](#), and numerous workshops and individual scholarships.

Ed with thanks to IDRC Alumnus, Clyde Sanger, who knows his Canadian journalists.

IN MEMORIAM



Tom Torrance
1939-2018

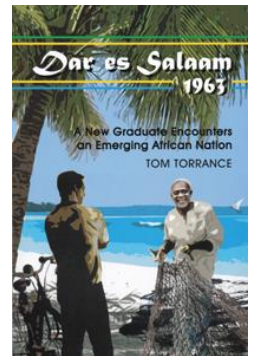
Tom Torrance was a Recruitment Officer with IDRC’s Human Resources Division in the 1980s.

Tom died on April 18, 2018, after a long battle with the effects of kidney disease.

Tom’s career in international development began as an economist with newly independent Tanzania in 1963 and led to work with the International Labour Office in Geneva, the UN in New York and the World Bank in Washington. Back to Canada Tom also worked for EDC and CIDA.

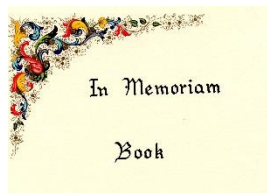
Tom’s book, [*Dar es Salaam A New Graduate Encounters an Emerging African Nation*](#) was in No. 30 June 2012 Bulletin.

For more on Tom’s work and challenges see Tom’s obituary in the [Ottawa Citizen](#).



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The IN MEMORIAM book on line



The [Alumni In Memoriam Book](#) is found on the [IDRC Alumni Website](#).

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Bulletin Archive on Line



[Past issues of the IDRC Alumni Bulletin](#), from the first edition in January 2003, are available on the [IDRC Alumni website](#).

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



Government of Canada Workplace Charitable Campaign

Campagne de charité en milieu de travail du gouvernement du Canada

IDRC's Government of Canada
Workplace Charitable Campaign
(GCWCC) 2018

Campagne de charité en milieu de
travail du gouvernement du Canada
(CCMTGC) 2018 du CRDI

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 2018 campaign – ***I Give...*** - was launched on September 10th.

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: Martine Lefebvre, 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 Martine Lefebvre (613-696-2173 or mlefebvre@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.

Fabiola Dieudonné, Stéphan Boucher, Pélégie Lefebvre
2018 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.

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