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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.

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No. 60 January 2020

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Thanks to Michèle Wilson for Translation.

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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>

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## From the Chair

Rob Robertson

### The Survivors

IDRC and its President, Jean Lebel, were kind enough to welcome three survivors to the presentation of long-service awards this year. Marking the beginning of its 50<sup>th</sup> year, the Centre honoured Ray Audet and Gerry Bourrier, both of whom started work at the Centre fifty years ago, and your somewhat less experienced Chairman for this Alumni gig I've been doing. As always it was good to see the fresh faces of new employees as well as the long-serving staff for whom IDRC is both an occupation and a vocation.



Jean interviewed the three of us for future communications purposes (stay tuned to YouTube) and the memories and advice of Ray and Gerry are worthwhile sharing. Both emphasized the unique qualities of the Centre as a “caring institution” with Ray recalling that the Auditor General of Canada highlighted this when he named IDRC a “Well Performing Organization.” Ray noted that the former President of Senegal had also lauded the Centre in similar terms for providing aid in a caring fashion that is “aide douce.” Gerry cited the Centre’s continuing commitment to developing research capacity through higher education, training and institutional development, thereby lessening the dependency on tied aid and technical support

provided by more traditional aid agencies. He also noted the Centre’s seminal role in creating many other international institutions that addressed and continue to address and coordinate work on key development issues.

Both Ray and Gerry emphasized that going into the future maintaining the Centre’s independence of thought and action is critical. While there needs to be an openness to new issues and opportunities, they both underlined the importance of persistence and being patient and being prepared to fund activities over a long period of time. Ray called this “being steadfast in its pursuits.” Gerry said that this was particularly true in the area of environmental funding where developing countries are sometimes affected in a more devastating manner than Canada.

It was good to see and hear Ray and Gerry again as they shared their wisdom. And good to know that not only do some of IDRC’s most important early people survive, but so too does its commitment to the founding principles and approaches that have made the Centre great.

## Alumni News

On November 12 despite the Winter's first heavy snow fall 56 Alumni gathered for the Annual Luncheon. Visit the [Alumni website](#) for the photo collection.

In November Alumni gather for a luncheon at IDRC World HQ



alumni luncheon



Cathy Raymond Martin & David Balsan



Chris Smart



David Balsan, Vern Jorssen & Keith Bezanson



David Brooks



Eyra Edington & Kim Daley



food



Gary Costelo, Manon Therien & Francine McEwen



Gisèle Marin-Labatut, Claire Thompson, Veronica Suarez & Tavinder Nijhawan



Rob Robertson



Maria Williams, Jean-Marc Fleury & Nancy Hutchinson



The Door Prizes this year were 'treasure chests' with embroidered lids from the Amman location of the new MENA RO. The prizes were gifts to the Alumni from Barbara Shenstone the new RD. Shukraan gazilan Barbara.

They were won by Vern Jorssen and Francine McEwen.

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## Alumni and the IDRC 50th

Remembering the past....

As part of the celebration of its 50 years the Centre is looking for pictures of memorabilia from its history. It could be an item that the Centre gave to you, or it could be something of significance that you received relevant to its work from another party. If you have something of interest, please send a picture of the item to Rob Robertson at robertsonre@hotmail.com by Feb. 15.

IDRC will celebrate its 50th anniversary between April 2020 and March 2021. The corporate milestones will be the 50 projects to be featured on line.



For many Alumni there are the personal milestones, unforgettable moments, highlights of the projects, colleagues met, friends made. Our late colleague Louis Behan's meeting Nelson Mandela sets the bar pretty high.

Memories of the Mona Lisa Banana is another example, wit and whimsy to celebrate a challenge.



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Daniel Buckles  
Protector of trees

In November Daniel had an Op Ed in the Ottawa Citizen.



**“Buckles: How closing Ottawa bus lanes can open a green corridor**

Let's uncover the soil, bring nature into the downtown, and connect the growing bike commuter network from east to west.”

[Click](#) for Daniel's Op Ed.



Thanks to Pauline Robert Bradley

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Sheldon Shaeffer

(Unretired!)

World Forum Global Leader, Sheldon Shaeffer sat down at Bonnie's Global Café in Cannon Beach, Oregon and discussed just a few of the real-life experiences we often see in regards to exclusion factors in early childhood education covering topics like language, poverty, and remote locations.



*“We have to make sure that education systems as a whole have a vision, mission, objectives, and strategies that are trying to include rather than exclude. This is going to be very important for the future if we really want to make sure that all children have the right and the possibility of having good early childhood education.”*

World Forum Foundation

[Click](#) to Watch the interview with Sheldon.

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## Alumni in Print

Don de Savigny



[Applied Systems Thinking for Health Systems Research: A Methodological Handbook](#) Don de Savigny, Karl Blanchet, Taghreed Adam Open University Press, McGraw Hill 2017  
ISBN-10: 0335261329 SBN-13: 978-0335261321

Patient safety in health systems has become more and more important as a theme in health research, and so it is not surprising to see a growing interest in applying systems thinking to healthcare. However there is a difficulty – health systems are very complex and constantly adapting to respond to core drivers and fit needs. How do you apply systems thinking in this situation, and what methods are available? National health authorities, international donors and research practitioners need to know the “how-to” of conducting health systems

research from a systems thinking perspective. This book will fill this gap and provide a range of tools that give clear guidance of ways to carry out systems thinking in health, with real-world examples. These methodologies include: • System dynamics and causal loops • Network analysis • Outcome mapping • Soft systems methodology and many more. Written by an international team of experts in health research, this handbook will be essential reading for those working in or researching public health, health policy, health systems, global health, service improvement and innovation in practice.

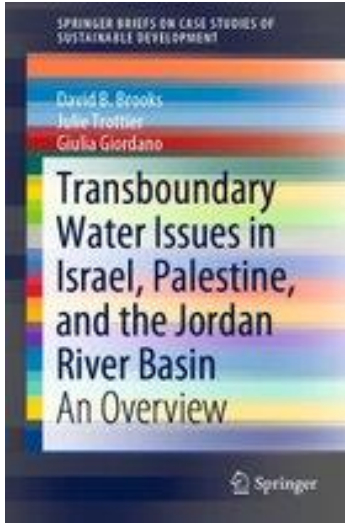


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David Brooks

[Transboundary Water Issues in Israel, Palestine, and the Jordan River Basin: An Overview](#)

Brooks, David, Trottier, Julie, Giordano, Giulia Springer  
ISBN 978-981-15-0252-1



This book highlights the search for permanent freshwater agreements between Israel, Palestine, and the western portions of Jordan, and underscores the benefits of shared water management among the three countries. Throughout the book, efforts are made to share transboundary water in ways that are simultaneously physically feasible, ecologically sustainable, and socially equitable. Thanks to the Peace Treaty between Israel and Jordan, the management of shared water resources has



been working well, though future relationships are uncertain at present. However, the current arrangements for Israel and Palestine are, at best, inadequate and, in some cases, counterproductive. In closing, the book argues that trilateral agreements on water can and should be concluded now, before seeking to resolve the full range of issues that remain uncertain in a Final Status Agreement between Israel and Palestine.

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Jean-Marc Fleury



**Les fausses nouvelles, nouveaux visages, nouveaux défis. Comment déterminer la valeur de l'information dans les sociétés démocratiques**

Sous la direction de : [Florian Sauvageau](#), [Simon Thibault](#), [Pierre Trudel](#) ; Discipline: [Communications](#). Parution: 284 pages

Format papier: 24.95 \$ Format PDF: 24.95 \$

[Click for a .pdf extract.](#)

Jean-Marc, Visiting Professor, Chaire de journalisme scientifique Bell Globemedia, at Laval University contributed chapter 7 : La production de fausses nouvelles scientifiques: le cas de la vaccination.



Timely research at a time when Science and the Antivaxer movement contend.

Jean Marc is a member of a team at Laval, [Pèse-Savants research](#). The work of the team was featured in an article, [Peser la science grâce à un algorithme](#) in *Le Devoir* in September 2019.

[Click for a graphic](#) of the results of the Pèse-savants search featuring the results of the investigation into the veracity of the Vaccine-Autism link.(Français)

[Click for project description](#) in English.

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Annick Hardie



*Second Chances* (novel), Annick Hardie  
2019, ISBN 978-0-9952194-1-0



“Annick’s first novel, *Back to Maxwell*, was featured in the Bulletin in [January 2017](#). The year is 1966, and young Michèle Vallier can hardly wait to start her first job as the French teacher’s assistant in a rural school in Scotland. With her brand-new green trunk in tow, she leaves France and embarks on an adventure that will change her life.”

“Continuing the magic of *Back to Maxwell*, endearing friends return, and we are introduced to new ones. Engrossing, funny and poignant, *Second Chances* weaves a memorable story about the journeys of the human heart. A sequel to *Back to Maxwell*, this novel can also be read on its own.”

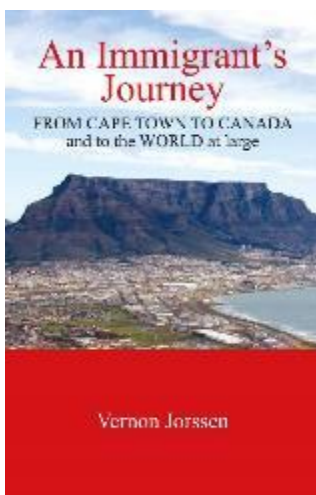
Three countries, three women who have been hurt at some stage of their lives. Each of them is dealing with the past in a different way....Are they all deceiving themselves? Will life grant them a second chance?

One hundred percent of the proceeds will go to La Maison des Collines, a palliative care hospice, a project that means a lot to the Hardie Family.

For copies contact [Annick Hardie](#)

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Vern Jorssen



**An Immigrant's Journey: from Cape Town to Canada and on to the World at large.** Vern Jorssen, Baico, December 1919 ISBN: 978-1-77216-2004 \$23.95 Available from [Books on Beech Wood](#).



"I have been involved in Africa for many years and I worked and lived in Southern Africa in the eighties and nineties. Consequently I am all too familiar with the iniquities of the apartheid regime.

But most people reading this book will probably have scant knowledge and little understanding of what it meant to live in that crushing regime where your chance of having a decent life and a reasonable living depended entirely on how pale your skin was. And so viciously was that policy implemented that it pervaded and poisoned not just segments of society but individual families, pitting one family member against another in the name of survival.

This book provides an insight into what apartheid did to a society and to a family and tells how one individual, through huge effort, innate intelligence, determination and some luck, managed to turn apartheid on its head and fashion a truly impressive life and career. "

Charles Bassett former Senior VP CIDA

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**And while we're here....**

In the last Bulletin Alumni In Print featured Hubert Zandstra's *By Popular Demand* and that has given rise to another Small World 6 degrees of separation moment. Ed Brandon writes:

"I'm enjoying reading about Hubert....The real proof that... that I lived just a few blocks from where Hubert lived in Scheveningen! Check it out.... I lived at 91 Maastrichtsestraat, and Hubert stayed at 34 or 43 Brugsestraat. Look up, in Google maps, "brugsestraat scheveningen" and "maastrichtsestraat scheveningen." Scheveningen is an old fishing village on the North Sea but now a bit of a beach resort, and the Hague (Den Haag, or more correctly, 's-GravenHage) is just inland. Today they are one and the same.



Even the images of our homes are very similar!"

It's a small world and 6 degrees of separation rules!

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The October Bulletin also reported on Neill McKee's winning an award for his book *Finding Myself in Borneo*. Neill's done it again on November 9, 2019, Neill's travel memoir won the award for Biography-Other (than New Mexico/Arizona content) in the 13th Annual New Mexico/Arizona Book Awards. The annual contest this year had a total of 1,545 entries with were 10 finalists in Biography. This contest is open to authors and

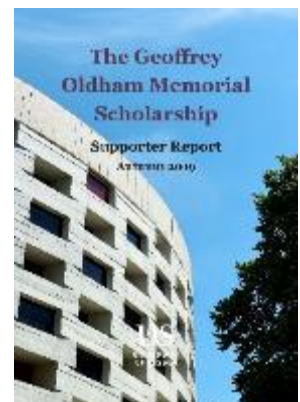
publishers, large and small, from anywhere, but books must have a direct connection to New Mexico or Arizona, either in subject, author, or publisher.

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### **Geoffrey Oldham Scholarship**

The University of Sussex welcomed three new Geoffrey Oldham Memorial Scholars for 2019/20. They are Carolina de Queiroga Ferraz Juca (Brazil), Qi Song (China) and Kennedy Ochieng Orwa (Kenya).

Click for the [Geoffrey Oldham Memorial Scholarship's Supporter Report](#) from the University of Sussex where you will find letters from all three, expressing in their own words exactly what the scholarship means for each of them. You will also find updates from two of the 2018/19 scholars, who have now completed their studies and write to tell you their news.



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## The David Hopper Prizes for Leadership in Research for Development



These prizes will be awarded during IDRC's 50th anniversary year, recognizing the vision of IDRC's founders in establishing an organization whose commitment to innovation, knowledge, and collaboration has only strengthened with age.

The David Hopper Prizes for Leadership in Research for Development, which will recognize outstanding achievement in the field of international development.

These prizes will recognize two individuals for whom IDRC support has been foundational to their careers and whose sustained original thought and leadership have led to significant positive societal impact. The prizes are available to outstanding researchers from low or middle-income countries who have previously received or currently receive IDRC support.

The deadline for submissions is March 18, 2020. The two CA\$50,000 awards will be announced by mid-May 2020.

*IDRC Alumni are encourage to share the information about the prizes with past grantees whose leadership and success has benefited from IDRC support over the years. Think of this as a chance to nominate someone your programme supported who you consider might be eligible for a 'Life Time Achievement Award'.*

*Nominations can be sent to Carole Labrie<[clabrie@idrc.ca](mailto:clabrie@idrc.ca)>*

Learn more about the [David Hopper Prizes for Leadership in Research for Development](#).

## Gallery



Beth and Neill McKee (front row left) hosted a potluck gathering for former volunteers (Peace Corps, VSO) who were in Sabah and Sarawak when Neill was with CUSO and who are now neighbours in New Mexico.

IDRC Communications Division 1992

Arun Abraham



Doug, Martha Chris, Carole (at 50), Suzanne, Bev.





Claude-Paul Boivin in the photo that came with his regret at not being able to attend the November Luncheon. We missed him.

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## IN MEMORIAM



Martha Brooks Stone  
1938-2019

Martha passed away on November 24, 2019.

Martha was born Martha Brooks in Jersey City and after completing studies – a BA in Philosophy at Howard University and a Master's in Library Science and Information Science at Drexel– immigrated to Canada with her first husband Leroy Stone.

Martha came to the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) in 1980 on loan from Health Canada to serve as Associate Director and Acting Centre Librarian in the Information Sciences Division. Other positions followed: Director, Information Sciences Division, Director General, Information Sciences and Systems Division, and Senior Advisor to the President on information and communication sciences before retiring in 1996.

Martha was IDRC's presence on the year-long programme of study and travel organized by National Defence, for senior officers and public servants to immerse them in the range of issues likely to shape Canada's national and global policy regimes. Legend has it that Martha was something of a troublemaker on the course – the generals of the day did not know what to make of someone like her. This was also a very personal event for Martha, as she met Ingar Moen, who became her life partner and with whom she travelled the world.

Martha continued to hold leadership roles in the information and library sciences community, and consulted as a specialist in information policy; information resource management; information and communication technologies; and evaluation and impact assessment. She served as Chair of the Advisory group on Membership Restructuring with FID<sup>1</sup>; Member of the Executive Committee of the

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<sup>1</sup>[International Federation of Information and Documentation](#)

Canadian Council of Federal Libraries; and Chair of the Integrated Library Systems Standing Committee, Council of Federal Libraries

Martha's international development credentials were valued: as a board member and Chair of [ICRISAT](#)<sup>2</sup>, a member of the Governing Board, CAB International<sup>3</sup>, a Senior Project Advisor with [Canadian Society for International Health](#), and as Vice-President of the Canadian Commission for UNESCO.

### Colleagues remember



I loved Martha. I admired her stately bearing and dignity. As they say, she was a private person, yet it was very easy to read (dis)pleasure or (dis)approval on her face. We shared a love for the music of Nina Simone. Martha's ideal relaxation, sometimes in the small hours of the night, was to play her piano.

John Hardie

Martha was a most knowledgeable colleague and a great friend. After Ingar's death in 2006, she suffered from serious health problems which she bore with great steadfastness, continuing to share her robust opinions and generous spirit. Her house was called Valhalla and her dogs, Odin, Loki and Freya. Valhalla was a truly welcoming place.

Caroline Pestieau

### Martha at work in India with Susan Mowat

While working at Agriculture Canada in the early 80's, Martha was in touch with me *off and on* about her MINISIS projects, then when I went to work at the UNFAO in 1985, she was in touch *regularly* about its databases, and when I returned after 4 years, she hired me first as a consultant and after that full time at IDRC! She was a planner.

We had some excellent years together spreading the Information Gospel far and wide. She was a fine colleague, a practical mentor, an inspiring boss, and a gentle friend.

Carole Joling

Martha was always very kind to me – especially since I had no training and, some would say, no notion of information sciences – but she would still trust me to go out and develop projects in Africa. On the personal side, I know she loved jazz and would go to Montreal to jazz concerts – once I remember with Pierre Sane.

Claude Paul Boivin

One of the most distinctive thing I remember about Martha, the sound of her footfalls... her purposeful stride and her pumps produced a unique sound... she was amazed I knew it was her at the door before I turned around (my chair back was to the door).

Catherine Shearer

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<sup>2</sup>[International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics](#)

<sup>3</sup>[CABI](#)

I remember her as a well-organized and methodical leader; she made sure the division ran like clockwork. She could also be very warm and understanding.

Gisèle Morin-Labatut

Martha was always sensitive about any suggestion that Information Sciences had lesser status than other disciplines in IDRC. In recognizing the importance of IS to research, she was ahead of her time – and I regret to say – of most of us in the management team.

Anne V. Whyte

Martha was a confident and effective delegator and a smart, strategic thinker.

Paul McConnell

My most vivid memory of Martha is that she gave really good hugs!! I remember we both attended some sort of meeting – perhaps in Amsterdam – and we mixed socially. My son Carl was a baby and Martha was very drawn to him.

Anne Di Lauro

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Dr Sadako Ogata  
1927-2019

Sadako Ogata was an IDRC Board Member in the 1990s.

For the story of a remarkable life visit [The Guardian](#)...

“Sadako Ogata, the first female head of the [United Nations](#) refugee agency ... was frequently underestimated by those meeting her for the first time. It was a mistake few of them made a second time.

When Ogata took up the post at the headquarters of the United Nations High Commissioner for [Refugees](#) (UNHCR) in Geneva in February 1991, staff knew almost nothing about her. First impressions were that she was too quiet, too self-effacing, too timid. There were doubts about whether she was up to the challenge of running one of the world’s biggest humanitarian organisations.

The scepticism was partly because she was a woman....

Within weeks, skepticism about Ogata disappeared on the cold mountains of northern Iraq. ...”

[Read on](#)



## The IN MEMORIAM book on line

The Alumni IN MEMORIAM feature has been digitized. [Click](#) here to find photos and remembrances.

## 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.



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