



Fun on the bouncy castle. Reunion Day 2002

Alumni NEWSLETTER

EDITION 25 WINTER 2002



- £20 million for Endangered Languages Project
- Baroness Helena Kennedy QC appointed President
- The Nomadic Peoples of Iran



Sheikh Mohamed bin
Issa Al Jaber



Wole Soyinka

Honorary Fellowships

Sir Tim Lankester KCB, Director of SOAS 1996-2000, Sheikh Mohamed bin Issa Al Jaber, international businessman and patron of education and Wole Soyinka, dramatist and Nobel laureate were awarded Honorary Fellowships at this year's Graduation Day Ceremony on 25th July 2002.

Director's Prize for Teaching 2002

Dr Christopher (Chris) Cramer, Department of Development Studies has been awarded The Director's Prize for Teaching 2002, the first of an annual prize of £2,500 to reward innovative and creative teaching.

Getty Award for Internet Mission Photography Archive (IMPA)

The Getty Grant Programme has announced a \$250,000 award for a project Capturing the Visual Traces of the Missionary Movement.

The grant is for the creation of a website of photographic prints and negatives, taken in the field between 1850-1950, and derived initially from the collections held at Yale University, the Catholic Foreign Mission

Society of America at Maryknoll, New York, SOAS (under archivist Rosemary Seton), the Norwegian Missionary Society in Stavanger, the Leipzig Mission in Leipzig and the Moravian Church at Herrnhut. The Archive Research Center at the University of Southern California will host the website which is due to be launched by December 2004.

Acknowledgments

Special thanks to all of the staff, students and friends of SOAS who have contributed to this issue.

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The views represented in the Alumni Newsletter are those of individual contributors and do not necessarily reflect those of the School.

Website: <http://www.soas.ac.uk>

Front cover

Ni Madé Pujawati (pictured here) and Wayan Melayu performed for a Balinese dance workshop held at the SOAS Alumni Reunion on 15 June 2002 at Vernon Square. The international Balinese dance organization (www.balinesedance.org) has close links to SOAS through the new AHRB Research Centre in Cross-Cultural Music and Dance Performance.

Back cover

Fun on the bouncy castle. Reunion Day 2002.

AHRB Centre for Asian and African Literatures



Professor Hélène Cixous who gave a lecture entitled: *Primal Scenes in Algeria (1940-1956): Hélène Cixous's Algériances* on 21 June 2002 at SOAS

The AHRB Centre for Asian and African Literatures at University College London and SOAS 'is now in full swing, a hive of activity, a whirlpool of ideas, a hub of intellectual energy' (Theo Hermans, Associate Director).

Activities during the last 6 months have included public lectures by: Ama Ata Aidoo, Richard Bauman, Hélène Cixous, Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak, Harish Trivedi and Zoe Wicomb; workshop conferences have taken place on Genre Ideologies and Narrative Transformation and Literature and Performance (April), Gender and Literature in Cross-Cultural Contexts (May), Narrating and Imaging the Nation (June), and Translation and Translation Theories East and West (June and September). Three new projects will be launched in 2003: Tradition and the Modern; the Social Context of Literary Production and Consumption; and The City and Literature. Poetry translation workshops have been held with SOAS's new poet-in-residence, Sarah Maguire.

Forthcoming:

Public Lecture by Professor Ann Laura Stoler, University of Michigan, February 2003.

For further details on the Arts & Humanities Research Board Centre for Asian and African Literatures, please visit: <http://www.soas.ac.uk/literatures> or e-mail: ahrblit@soas.ac.uk

Widening Participation Project



SOAS student mentors and local pupils enjoyed a trip on the London Eye during the Summer School held 15-19 July 2002 at SOAS. The trip was part of the Widening Participation Project, a government-funded initiative which aims to give young people with no family history of higher education an early insight into academic and social life at the university.

NEW CEREMONIAL HEAD

Baroness Helena Kennedy QC has been appointed to succeed Lord Howe as the School's ceremonial head, with the new title President.



Barrister, author, broadcaster and journalist, Baroness Kennedy is Chair of the British Council and was previously Chancellor of Oxford Brookes University. In accordance with other Universities, the School has split the Visitor's functions - as ceremonial head and as a final court of appeal. The Rt Hon Sir Anthony Evans has been appointed Visitor to fulfil the latter role.

FIRST POET IN RESIDENCE

Sarah Maguire has been appointed the School's first Poet in Residence, attached to the Department for Near and Middle Eastern Studies and funded by the Royal Literary Fund. Specialising in Arabic and Russian poetry and translations into English, she is author of *Spilt Milk; Invisible Mender*; and a collection *Florists at Midnight* to be published on 3 November by Jonathan Cape.

£20 million for Endangered Languages Documentation Project

The Lisbet Rausing Charitable Fund has initiated a programme of grants to support the documentation of endangered languages worldwide and SOAS has been appointed to administer the scheme. (See over). Further details can be obtained from: <http://www.eldp.soas.ac.uk>

RESEARCH AWARD FOR INDIAN CLASSICAL VOCAL COMPOSITIONS

The AHRB has awarded £387,000 over a period of 3.5 years to a research team based in the Department of Music, for a project to document and analyse the music and words of vocal compositions in the Indian classical music tradition.

Dr Nicolas Magriel and Dr Lalita du Perron, who obtained their doctorates in the Departments of Music and South Asia respectively, will carry out the research and the project will be directed by Dr Richard Widdess, Reader in Ethnomusicology with reference to South Asia in the Department of Music. The project will involve identifying, transcribing and analysing traditional, orally-transmitted compositions from classic phonograph recordings of the period 1903-1975, in order to document their music and poetry, and study processes of re-creation and transformation in a period of significant cultural change.

ENDANGERED LANGUAGES AT SOAS

Only in recent years have we woken up to the fact that the majority of the world’s languages are in grave danger of disappearing for ever.

There have been several books aimed not just at academic, but also general readers, a Radio 4 programme, and now SOAS is to be at the forefront of research and documentation in recording endangered languages across the world. The Lisbet Rausing Charitable Fund has initiated a programme to support this work, and has appointed SOAS to administer it. Part of the scheme provides funding for an Academic Programme, which will be led by Professor Peter Austin, but the largest proportion of the £20,000,000 will over ten years fund the Endangered Languages Documentation Programme. This will be located at SOAS and will award grants for documentation projects on individual or closely related groups of endangered languages under the guidance of an international panel of experts.

By some counts, only 10% of the 6,500 or so languages in the world are “safe” from the threat of extinction, and it has been predicted that at least half of the world’s languages will be extinct within a century. In these days when everyone is conscious of the threat to global biodiversity, it is only timely that we have realised that most languages are under similar pressure, and language is perhaps the single most important thing that distinguishes us as human beings. A people’s language not only encodes and uniquely expresses their world view, but also their culture and their knowledge of the physical world in

which they live. Once a language dies unrecorded and undocumented, then all this knowledge is lost for ever, too. Whether a language disappears because the people who speak it actually disappear, or as is more often the case today because they shift to another language, usually a larger, dominant and more “prestigious” language, like English, Spanish, Indonesian, Swahili, Hindi or whatever, the result is the same.

A number of staff and research students at SOAS over the years have worked on endangered languages, living in the field and producing linguistic descriptions, sometimes only sketches, but more often full grammars and sometimes dictionaries.

It takes a long time to produce a grammar of a language in this way. You need to be trained not only in descriptive linguistic field methods, but also in interpersonal skills – after all, you cannot just walk into a village and say ‘teach me your language!’ You usually have to live with the people, too, and become part of their community for some time. Proper documentation means not only writing grammars and dictionaries, but also collecting, annotating and making available the whole range of a society’s oral culture.

A few years ago, I worked briefly with the handful of surviving speakers of Qwara, the original language of the Ethiopian Jews, most of whom now live in Israel. Only five or six old people still remembered anything of this language. Our meetings always contained as much conversation in Amharic, the language most Ethiopian Jews came from Ethiopia with, as in Qwara.

A people’s language is also an intrinsic part of themselves, and must be treated with respect, as must their attitude to their language. One of the last speakers of Qwara asked me to approach the Israeli authorities to see that Qwara was taught in the schools, but another wondered why I was bothering with what was almost a dead language; ‘it’s of no use,’ he said. Linguists are often surprised when some speakers of endangered languages question their enthusiasm to record, and more than that, to rescue their language. Documentation is, however, the essential first step, and the Endangered Languages Documentation Programme, assisted by training in methodology and archiving provided by the Academic Programme, will be a force of global significance in doing something about the situation before it is too late.

Dr David Appleyard
Chair of the Centre for Language Research
www.eldp.soas.ac.uk

Award for 5-year Project on Cultural Change in Arunachal Pradesh

In July 2002, Dr Stuart Blackburn, Senior Lecturer in Tamil in the Department of the Languages and Cultures of South Asia was awarded £277,000 from the Economic and Social Research Council to fund a 5-year project: *Tribal Transitions: Cultural Innovation in Arunachal Pradesh, India*. The research will assess cultural change (oral traditions, religious practices and material culture) during the last hundred years in the Indian state of Arunachal Pradesh. The project is a collaborative effort between SOAS, The British Museum, Arunachal University, the Government of Arunachal Pradesh, and the British Council in New Delhi.

Dr Nawal El-Saadawi gave a guest lecture entitled: *Globalisation, Religious Fundamentalism and Feminist Thought* on Friday 10 May in the Brunei Gallery Lecture Theatre. The talk, in association with ZED Books, was one in the Centre of Near & Middle Eastern Studies (CNMES) Occasional Lecture Series.



Professor Peter Austin

Professor Peter K Austin has been appointed the new Marit Rausing Professor in Field Linguistics and Director of the Endangered Languages Academic Programme. Awarded his PhD from the Australian National University in 1978, he has held positions at the University of Western Australia; Harvard; the University of California at Los Angeles; MIT and La Trobe University, and since 1996 been Foundation Professor and Head of Linguistics at the University of Melbourne. In 2002, Professor Austin won the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation Prize. He has published widely on Australian Aboriginal languages, written eight bilingual dictionaries and has recently been carrying out research in Eastern Indonesia.

Vice-Principal (External)

Professor Lisa Croll has been appointed to this new post. Her responsibilities will include leadership in all external aspects of academic activities at the School, including managerial responsibility for the Centres and Conference office and oversight of the Regional Centres. The appointment is for 3 years in the first instance.

Summer Schools

Klezfest London 2002, the 2nd Jewish Music International summer school in Klezmer music (21-25 July); Raags of the Rain Indian Music summer school (27 July-3 August); and a 2-week summer course in archaeological methods and techniques (17-28 June) run by the Department of Art and Archaeology were just three of the events which took place during the summer at SOAS.

The Nomadic Peoples of Iran



The Nomadic Peoples of Iran edited by Richard Tapper and Jon Thompson. Photography by Nasrollah Kasraian. © Nasrollah Kasraian

My interest in Iran was kindled by two Fellows of my college in Cambridge, Peter Avery, Lecturer in Persian, and my supervisor Edmund Leach, who had once done research among Iraqi Kurds, not far from the Shahsevan.

I began research on Iran as an undergraduate anthropology student. In summer 1963, at the end of my second year, I made my first trip to the Shahsevan nomads of Iranian Azerbaijan. After a second trip the following summer, I came to SOAS to do doctoral research, involving a year’s intensive fieldwork among the Shahsevan.

My interest in Iran was kindled by two Fellows of my college in Cambridge, Peter Avery, Lecturer in Persian, and my supervisor Edmund Leach, who had once done research among Iraqi Kurds, not far from the Shahsevan. The Shahsevan were pastoral nomads, living in felt-covered *kibitka*-style tents, herding sheep and goats and using camels for transport. Several thousand families of them still pursue this way of life today, though many have abandoned camels for trucks and pickups. Their social, economic and political organization, I soon discovered, were strongly influenced by two main factors: their location on the Iranian frontier - with Russia, the USSR and now the Republic of Azerbaijan - and their relations with these various states.

My studies of the Shahsevan were published mainly in two monographs, an ethnography (*Pasture and Politics*, 1979) and a history (*Frontier Nomads of Iran*, 1997 - which last year was acclaimed Best Cultural Research of the Year 2001 by the Iranian Ministry of Culture).

I have also conducted extensive research in Afghanistan (between 1968 and 1972) and Turkey (between 1979 and 1984), in both cases jointly with Nancy Tapper (now Lindisfarne). In Afghanistan I pursued my interest in pastoral nomads - we lived and moved with a group of Durrani Pashtuns in the north and centre of the country. In Turkey, we changed focus and lived in a provincial town, studying among other things the everyday practice of Islam.

In all these field studies I have never found the physical discomforts (which were minimal in the case of Turkey) as challenging as the business of obtaining permission from local authorities to do ethnographic research, something such people often find both incomprehensible and highly suspicious.

My interests in Turkey and Afghanistan continue, but in the 1990s I found myself concentrating once again on Iran, where I made several trips together with my wife, Iranian anthropologist Ziba Mir-Hosseini. I hope to return again in 2003. I am still very much concerned with the fate of the pastoral nomads, and the Shahsevan in particular, as reflected in my contribution to *The Nomadic Peoples of Iran* (2002), the brainchild of my co-editor Jon Thompson, which focuses around the brilliant photography of Nasrollah Kasraian. However, my research interests have moved towards popular, public and visual culture, and currently focus on Iranian Cinema. Another new edited book (*The New Iranian Cinema*, 2002) arose from the first of two conferences I have convened at SOAS on this subject - which I also teach as an option on the MA Anthropology of Media.

My interest in cinema partly stems from my long-term involvement in ethnographic film. I had an 8mm movie camera with me in summer 1963, and when I did fieldwork in 1965-1966, encouraged by my supervisor Christoph von Fürer-Haimendorf, I took a 16mm camera. In Afghanistan, having at first decided I could not both film and do fieldwork, I bought the only 8mm camera I could find in Kabul. In Turkey too, I took an 8mm camera. The results were amateurish, and I have long since ceased inflicting them on students in the courses I teach on Middle Eastern Ethnography and on Anthropology and Film. But I have just acquired my first Digital Video camera: watch this space!

Professor Richard Tapper
Department of Anthropology and Sociology

LINKS WITH UGANDA'S MAKERERE UNIVERSITY

As part of the British Council Link Programme initiated by my colleague Dr Frances Harding, I spent two weeks in March 2002 on an exchange visit to Uganda's famous Makerere University.

In the immediate post-independence years, before political and other related forms of disillusionment set in, Makerere was among the few leading institutions in Africa which served as focal points for African Studies. The Link Programme, which aims to promote and sustain relationships between the Department of Languages and Cultures of Africa at SOAS and colleagues in the Department of English at Makerere, is significant partly in this respect.

The objective of the exchange is the programme, "Orality in Applied Performance: A Technique of Communication for Addressing Contemporary Social Issues", a performance for 'development' oriented programme. In it, community leaders and people from different communities along with SOAS and Makerere University colleagues work together through theatre performance to address social issues confronting them in their every day existence within impoverished situations. Using different forms of oral performance techniques, including songs, storytelling, plays, rituals and oratory, various groups from Uganda's several ethno-linguistic communities seek to deploy performance as a tool for self-development and self-empowerment. The fundamental idea is that through self-aware action-related activity people can isolate and determine their needs and problems and seek for some resolution of them. Of central importance to this programme is the awareness on the part of colleagues from both SOAS and Makerere that we are in the role of facilitators. These ideas were discussed and fleshed out in the workshop-seminar on "Applied Performance and Oral Communication", jointly run by Dr Harding and Mwalimu Austin Bukonya of Makerere University. The workshop took place during my own and Dr Harding's visit.

I was also teaching undergraduate and graduate classes, and gave a major seminar presentation on "Literature and Modern African Consciousness". This event was well attended, in a room packed to capacity and forming part of legendary activity having been used by such well-known East African scholars as the late Ugandan poet Okot p'Bitek of *Song of Lawino* fame, Kenyan writer-activist and polemicist Ngũgĩ wa Thiong'o, and Ugandan Professors of Literature Shatto Arthur Gakwandi and Timothy Wangusa.

I also did two media interviews: one for Uganda's leading daily *The New Vision* and the other for *The Monitor*, Uganda's leading opposition newspaper who invited me to take part in a popular weekend radio show. In both interviews I expanded on the aims of the Link Programme and responded to (phone-in) questions. Many of the questions touched on the significance of African Studies in the UK and elsewhere internationally, while Africa's contemporary contribution to global knowledge, and the relationships between on the one hand, Literature, and on the other Society, Culture and Politics provided another lively topic.

The visit was also a huge eye-opener in terms of teaching-learning situations. Students in Makerere's English Department are thirsty for knowledge, and are highly motivated and enthusiastic, despite having minimal resources. This is obviously a positive sign, given the generally intimidating and under-resourced status of education in Africa. Students consistently contributed with passion during the several teaching sessions that I held with them. The Link research and teaching programme continues and, in November 2002, Mwalimu Austin Bukonya and Dr Okello Ogang from Makerere University will visit the Africa Department, SOAS for two or more weeks.

All in all, it was time well spent and cherished, and a vivid reminder of the fact that for academic life to be fruitful, different cultural experiences are needed. My visit included a visit to the Kasubi Tombs, the historic monument to the evolution of the Bagandan monarchy in Uganda. Other impressive cultural spectacles included the famous Jinja resort in Southern Uganda, where the source of the Nile is to be found. Not the least of the interesting things my fascinated eyes beheld was the pointing out to me by my hosts of two famous market centres which have existed from pre-colonial times till now where traders always leave their wares overnight and return the next day to find them safe and untouched, the belief being that whoever steals or attempts to loot them will be severely punished by the guardians and custodians of the market!

Dr Kwadwo Osei-Nyame
Lecturer in African Literature
The Department of Languages and Cultures of Africa

20 OF THE VERY BEST: A SELECTION BY KWADWO OSEI-NYAME

(Ko9@soas.ac.uk)

1. Chinua Achebe, *Things Fall Apart*
2. Ama Ata Aidoo, *No Sweetness Here*
3. Ayi Kwei Armah, *The Beautiful Ones Are Not Yet Born*
4. Ayi Kwei Armah, *Fragments*
5. Shimmer Chinodya, *Harvest of Thorns*
6. Mariama Ba, *Scarlet Song*
7. Buchi Emecheta, *The Joys of Motherhood*
8. Cheikh Hamidou Kane, *Ambiguous Adventure*
9. Ben Okri, *The Famished Road*
10. Toni Morrison, *Song of Solomon*
11. Tsitsi Dangaremba, *Nervous Conditions*
12. Dambudzo Marechera, *The House of Hunger*
13. Tayeb Salih, *Season of Migration to the North*
14. Ike Oguine, *The Squatter's Tale*
15. Benjamin Kwakye, *The Clothes of Nakedness*
16. Bessie Head, *The Collector of Treasures*
17. Alice Walker, *The Colour Purple*
18. George Lamming, *In the Castle of My Skin*
19. Sam Selvon, *The Lonely Londoners*
20. Sembene Ousmane, *God's Bits of Wood*



Ama Ata Aidoo who gave a lecture entitled: *African Languages and Gender*, on 2 May, 2002 at SOAS

Daimyo Gyoretsu Festival

I was a full time student on the Japanese Diploma Course, which is a fantastic programme.



Richard Kershaw – Karo (Senior Samurai)

The Daimyo Gyoretsu festival is a recreation of an old Japanese tradition and is held every year in a town called Matsudamachi just west of Tokyo. Essentially, the *Shogun* (military ruler of Japan) would appoint new *Daimyo* (great lords, or feudal lords) every year.

The newly appointed *Daimyo* would then hold a celebratory procession, which of course cost him a fortune, which was good for the *Shogun* as it kept the *Daimyo* poor and so less likely to threaten the ruler's power.

This tradition is still carried on by the people of Matsudamachi, although there are a number of places open to guests (if you know about it!). My company CEO thought it would be a good idea for me to participate, as he believes new experiences are important in a person's life. I am very lucky in that regard, I think. When you apply, it is the organisers who decide which role is played by whom. I had been told there are always two places open for non-Japanese, and it wasn't until I got there, I discovered that while this was true in theory, I was the first to actually participate.

Consequently, and also due in part to my height, they decided to have me play the role of *Karo* (senior samurai), the highest ranking official present, who walks alongside the *Daimyo's kago* (a Japanese sedan chair) to protect and also show the *Daimyo's* power. Behind are the *Karo's* samurai (I think everyone knows the word samurai? Japanese warrior class) and the ladies of the household, with *mikoshi* (a portable shrine carried on the shoulders of lots of singing and often drunk people) behind. In front were spearmen, riflemen, and archers, all with their weapons in ceremonial holders/sheaths/quivers, and in front of that, a legion of dancers. I was instructed to pretty much ignore everyone, simply be fierce looking and powerful, although to very rarely salute someone in the crowd with my fan (young children and really old people normally appreciating this). If people got too close I would bellow "*buraimono!*" (effectively, "Back, scoundrel!") at them, much to general amusement, although in real life someone hearing that would probably have been in real trouble.

At 6'4" and a decidedly not-Japanese looking Englishman, I wondered how this would go down, but actually people seemed to think it was appropriate that the *Karo* was large and threatening, and also pale-skinned (a sign of not having to do manual labour and thus high-rank).

We walked around for 3 hours, winding round the town and ending up at the river for an almighty amount of food and a large fireworks display over the river. All in all, a fantastic experience.

I was a full time student on the Japanese Diploma Course (2000-2001), which is a fantastic programme. I participated on the work-study placement as well, and spent an excellent and valuable month with Hokkaido Nissan. I now work for Advanex Inc, an engineering components multinational, at HQ in Tokyo. I work as a systems associate, which involves pretending to know what computers do, just like every other IT professional.

Richard Kershaw
richard_kershaw@advanex.co.jp

STUDENT NEWS



Sonia and Atrayee, two members of the SOAS team of Student Ambassadors, helping out at the 2002 Orientation.

This was the second year that the School held the Orientation programme in Vernon Square. About 450 new international students attended and they were helped in finding their way around the School by a team of 20 Student Ambassadors. Academic and Welfare sessions and tours of the campuses and of London were offered to the new intake. Many alumni of yesteryear who never benefited from orientations will wonder with a mixture of regret and pride how they survived those first few, confusing and thrilling days.

World Literature Society - Creative Writing Competition

Open to all SOAS alumni

Poetry, prose, original translations
Up to 1,000 words prose, 40 lines poetry

Deadline: end February 2003

Theme: myths (retold, updated or exploded)

Contact: Jane.kinninmont@soas.ac.uk

World_literature_society@hotmail.com

Internet Radio

We are attempting to establish a SOAS Students' Union internet radio station and would be grateful for any support or expertise we may be able to receive from alumni who work in Radio or Broadcasting.

Yasemin Rashit
Co-President
SOAS Students' Union
fin.com@soas.ac.uk

SOCIETIES

This year's Societies Fayre 'is the biggest we have ever held at SOAS' writes Sal Khadr, Sports & Societies Co-President. Here is a list (not exhaustive) of the societies signing up members:

African Choir Society	No! Human Trafficking
Aikido	Pakistan Society
Arabic Culture Society	Palestinian Society
Basketball	People and Planet
Bigger Cheese Society (Independent Music)	People First Society
Boat Club	The Post (Postgrad magazine)
Capoeira	Revolution
Christian Union	Rugby
Climbing Society	Shorinji Kempo
Drama & Poetry Society	SOAS University of London Charity Committee
Friends for Peace	Socialist Resistance
Islamic Society	Socialist Worker Students' Society
Jewish Society	South Asian Dance & Music
Krishna Consciousness	Spartacus Youth Group
Liberal Democrats	The Spirit Magazine
Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender Society (LGBT)	Stop the War www.soasstopwar.org (a forum of debate for all viewpoints)
Men's Football	Tae Kwon Do
Muslim Media Forum	Taiwan Society
Muslim Women's Cultural Society	Volleyball
Netball	Women's Football
Nippon Kempo	Young Greens Society

The Spirit:

The Spirit magazine has been revamped. Hopefully, by now, if all goes to plan, everyone at SOAS should already have been exposed to our first issue and been suitably enlightened/excited/enraged.

We are now a team of three co-editors running the magazine; Amy Wilson, Drew Hanes and Nico Booker. A friendly threesome who by pure chance all happen to be Anthropologists of some description or another (questions or comments to the email address below). We are still trying to make sure that we are giving voice to as broad a range of SOAS students as possible. If you feel that the first issue wasn't talking to you, get in touch and tell us how you want the student body to be represented in print. Anyone who wants to write for us will be considered, however we expect all contributions to be well researched and the magazine is not a platform for one-sided ranting, we would prefer to be a forum for debate. All inquiries or possible contributions should be sent to this address: spireditor@blueyonder.co.uk

My Year Abroad in Beijing - James Pilkington, who is studying for a BA in Chinese and Development Studies, gives his personal account.

What did you study at Beijing Normal University (BNU)?

We had four classes: 'Reading & Writing', 'Newspapers', 'Classical Chinese' and 'Listening Ability', where we listened to articles recorded on tape and tried to understand what they were saying. In the second term, this class thankfully changed to 'Watching, listening and speaking' where we watched clips from terrible Chinese soaps and talked about them.

Where did you live?

Well, in the first term I lived in a place called 'New Pines Dormitory'. It was basically a hotel for students, double rooms with en-suite bathrooms. People came around and made your bed, cleaned the floor (bizarrely, with water taken from the toilet bowl) and brought fresh thermoses of boiling water every morning for your tea. The second term I decided that I was paying for stuff that I didn't really need, and moved to the cheaper 'Number One students' Dormitory', with its romantic Socialist name. We had shared toilets and showers, and it took me a while to get used to them - my first three showers after moving in were back at a friend's room in New Pines! There were no heads on the showers, tiles were missing and there were rather large amounts of ooze on the walls and floors.

What were some of the friendships you made?

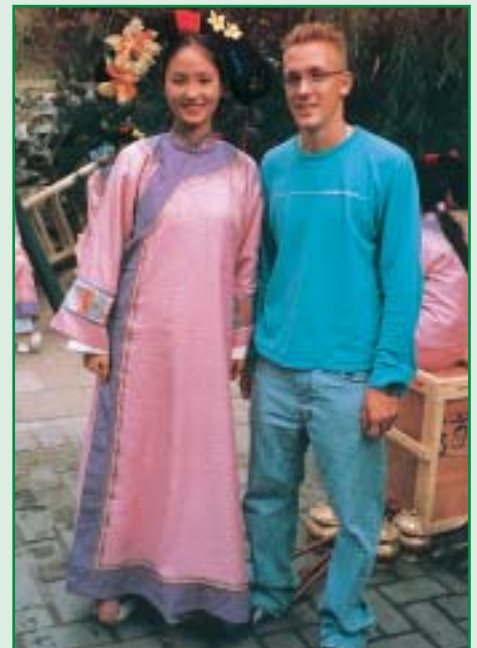
So many, that was definitely the best thing about the place. Because I could speak Japanese, a large part of my friends were Japanese Hip-Hop heads. We had some amazing times, even now I look at the photos and sniff. Also worth mentioning are my next-door neighbours. On the right were two Americans from Washington DC, one was a film studies student (I got to star in a hilarious short film of his about Chinese squat toilets that is going to show in the next Columbia Film Festival), and the other one was an all save-the-world political dreamer. On the other side lived two Mongolians who spent the winter holidays shooting wolves back home, and would come back to Beijing with hilarious stories. It is not very easy to make contact with the Chinese students at BNU but I did make some lasting Chinese friends on other campuses, one of whom I went trekking with in the mountains to the West of Beijing and nearly died! Another is China's youngest Chief Executive Officer, at 21, he's often on the covers of Magazines (one of which he owns), and his personal worth is \$500,000.

Where did you eat?

There was one stove for the whole floor in the dormitory, but it seemed that only the Korean students were crazy enough to cook. Eating out was so cheap, a nice meal shared with some friends may have set you back (UK) £1.50. I know a lot of people got very sick of Chinese food, and I did feel a bit sorry for them, as the foreign restaurants were very expensive, and there were none around the campus, apart from McDonalds. The secret alternative was Japanese and Korean food, which were also fairly cheap, and really delicious without being smothered in oil like the Chinese dishes. Towards the end, though, I started buying sandwiches for lunch from the bar in our building, they were so good.

Did you travel anywhere in PRC?

Did I travel anywhere? Where didn't I travel? Living in Beijing is quite expensive, it's almost cheaper to travel than to stay at home. To be honest, I used to skip quite a lot of class to go travelling. I only just went to enough to be able to take the exams! Among other places I went to Inner Mongolia, Shanghai, Suzhou, Hangzhou and various holy mountains including Huangshan, where you realise that those fantastic Chinese landscapes aren't artistic license, but detailed copies. I also went to Guilin, whose famous Li River has inspired so many paintings, as well as Vietnam and Laos. My best trip, though, was to Western Sichuan, to do some research for my project on conditions in Chinese nature reserves. Western Sichuan used to be part of Tibet, and Tibetans are still the majority. It's incredibly beautiful, the landscape goes from Chinese alluvial plains to Himalayan heights. I got to go to the most beautiful parts: Wolong, the home of the Giant Panda, a Nature Reserve which goes up past the snowline, and Jiuzhaigou, generally reckoned to be the most beautiful place in China, with its strange blue lakes filled with fossilised white trees and ghostly fish surrounded by alpine forest. Jiuzhaigou is quite heavily touristed, but the road there is magnificent, full of wooden villages in high mountain valleys. I met lots of minorities there, including a Muslim group whose temples looked like any other in China, except all the plaques were in Arabic. I met my share of interesting people in Wolong too. I stayed in a Tibetan farmhouse and they killed a goat for me, and spit roasted it. (It didn't taste very good though). I also got invited by a Tibetan village to come and teach English and Mandarin Chinese there. It was a tempting offer...



James Pilkington on the set of a period drama being filmed in September 2001 at the Summer Palace.

What surprised you, or was different from how you imagined?

To be honest, I expected it to be more Asian, but in many ways it's more of a culturally and environmentally Socialist country with an Asian history. I was expecting it to be a lot like Japan, with polite people and a conformist society but I did not find the Chinese polite or well-mannered! They don't really seem to care about other people or what they think too much, just try and get on with doing the things they want to do. I don't think the Chinese have a sense of embarrassment.

Would you like to go again?

Yes, but not to Beijing, I must admit I didn't like the place that much, the weather, pollution and environment are all pretty bad. But I think China south of the Yangtze River is great and the province nearest Hong Kong, Guangdong, has a lot of stunning natural environment that most people in Hong Kong don't know about. I want to see the west: Yunnan, Tibet and Xinjiang, it's less populated there, and still quite wild. I want to do the Silk Road, and see some of the poorer inland provinces of the south which still have old-style Chinese housing. There's so much of China that I want to see, as long as I can get away from the Han Chinese cities. They all seem identi-kit replicas of each other. And I want to go back to Western Sichuan! I could see myself living in Hong Kong or Shanghai, or some remote village in the mountains, though I'm saving that for my mid-life crisis!

James Pilkington
jpilkington@anfmil.com

Matt Bowden wins University of London Sportsman of the Year Award



University of London Water Polo Tour to Compiègne, December 2001 (Matt Bowden, back row, far left who won the University of London Sportsman of the Year award for his services to the Great Britain National Water Polo Team and University of London Water Polo (British University Sports Association-BUSA- Semi-finalists)

I first began playing water polo at the age of 14 years when my swimming club, Sedgefield 75 (of which I had been a member since the age of 6 years), created a new water polo squad. I first competed for England and Great Britain at water polo at the age of 15 years. At the age of 16 years I became the first junior to represent Great Britain in both swimming and water polo. I have over 50 caps for the most successful British Junior water polo team ever, and I was also vice-captain of this team.

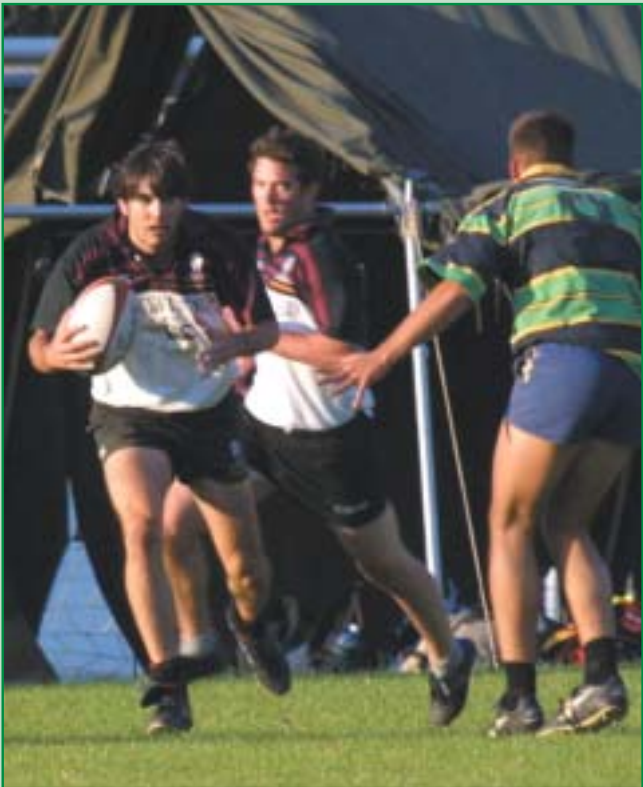
Since coming to SOAS to study Chinese and Politics, I have had to stop competitive swimming due to a lack of spare time. However, I have continued to play water polo. This season I have played for Rotherham Metro in the first division of the National League, the GB Junior team (in Belgium, France, Switzerland and Spain) and the University of London team. I was also delighted to receive the University of London Sportsman of the Year award, beating a Great Britain rower and a Great Britain fencer to the top spot.

Hopefully this has put SOAS on the University of London sports map too.

It has been exceedingly tough combining my water polo with my studies, however, I have shown that it is still possible to continue to compete at the highest level whilst also studying for a difficult degree. My course tutors have been especially supportive and have been understanding when I have needed to miss lessons due to competition and that is greatly appreciated. When I come back from my year in China, I would like to make the GB senior team and hopefully look towards taking part in the 2006 Commonwealth Games. For anyone who would like to take up this enjoyable, social sport, the best place to start is at the University of London Union (ULU). The University of London water polo club caters for every standard of player and warmly welcomes beginners.

Matt Bowden
(BA Chinese and Politics – 2nd year)

For further information: visit: <http://www.ulwaterpolo.co.uk> compiled by James Reddick
(University of London Water polo Team Manager)



Chris Hanlin (BA Swahili & Geography, 1993-1997) lines up his opposite number.

SOAS ALUMNI RUGBY CLUB GOES ONLINE

The SOAS Old Boys RFC have joined the information superhighway with the development and launch of their new website.

The site is a source of news on the team and the games that they play. These include seven-a-side tournaments like the Dubai Sevens (2000 & 2001), Makarska Sevens in Croatia (2002) and a number of 15-a-side games in London. There is also a section of photographs of these games and tournaments, with action on and off the field!

It is hoped that the site will help SOAS Alumni from all over the world to keep in touch with each other and that it will generate more interest from players, organisers and potential sponsors in future rugby games and tournaments.

The SOAS Old Boys are already making plans for 2003 including 15-a-side games against similar school or university old boys sides based in London. Tour locations currently being considered include Croatia, the Cayman Islands and Miami.

For more information, please visit www.soasoldboysrfc.co.uk or email info@soasoldboysrfc.co.uk.



Members of She'Coyoh - Klezmer Music from Eastern Europe - (pictured centre) perform during the Graduation Day receptions.



GRADUATION DAY 2002 25TH JULY



Seckou Keita and Jalikunda perform West African music at the Postgraduate ceremony.



(All photos © Glenn Ratcliffe)





© David Bradfield



Alumni from left to right: Youssef Taha, Eunice Learmont. © David Bradfield

ALUMNI REUNION 2002



From left to right: Pat Croci (Mayor's Consort), Dr Michael Hutt (Dean of Vernon Square), Councillor Margot Dunn (Mayor of Islington), Professor Colin Bundy (Director and Principal of SOAS), Hardeep Rai (LSAA Committee), Emma Hewett (Alumni and Marketing Officer) © David Bradfield

SATURDAY 15 JUNE 2002 SOAS PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE: A CELEBRATION

A superb time was enjoyed by everyone attending the second Alumni Reunion on 15 June 2002. Over 200 people came to explore the new Vernon Square campus, with an extensive programme of activities laid on for young and old. Lectures, workshops and performances ranged from The Chinese Clan System, Balinese gamelan to Learn Japanese in Half An Hour. The weather was perfect, the atmosphere in the World Cup Room was jubilant as England beat Denmark, and the barbecue of Asian and African food was highly praised.

The Russell Square campus was also included, with a well attended tour of the Library. Alumni had the chance to learn about the new SOAS faculties, chat with old friends and make new ones whilst listening to the live music encompassing SOAS's entire geographic spread. The day provided a relaxed yet stimulating atmosphere for alumni and

staff to really feel involved with the School. This celebration of SOAS past, present and future is yet another reminder of why alumni are so important, and why we welcome them back into the fold.

Emma Hewett
Alumni & Marketing Officer



Sian Jones, General Services Manager (Vernon Square), with her son Matthew and mother-in-law Betty Jones. © David Bradfield



Wayan Melayu and Ni Madé Pujawati © Glenn Ratcliffe

Staff



Members of Governing Body, June 2002 (Front row, left to right): Sir Joseph Hotung, Dr Bengisu Rona, Mr Jonathan Taylor, Professor Colin Bundy, The Lord Bagri, Dr David Khalili, Professor Elisabeth Croll Back row, left to right: Sir David John, Professor Christopher Shackle, Dr William Radice, Dr Cathy Jenkins, Mr Peter Collecott, Mr Samuel Jonah, Mr Liam Frost, Professor Ruth Finnegan, Professor Ian Brown, Ms Jo Halliday (Secretary), Mr Frank Dabell (Clerk), The Hon Barbara Thomas

OBITUARIES

The School regrets to inform you of the death of:

Professor A N Allott

30 June 1924 – 3 June 2002

Tony Allott died on 3 June a few weeks before his 78th birthday, after a long struggle with Parkinson's Disease. Having been appointed to the new post of Lecturer in African Law in 1948, he was to spend his whole life at the School. He was the first holder of the Readership (1960) and of the Chair (1964) in African Law, from which he retired in 1986. His contribution to the scholarship of African law was immense, as witnessed by many books, articles and not least by grateful research students, many of whom themselves became leading scholars in the field. Initially, he had no established academic discipline to fall back upon. He founded the subject as an academic discipline. Certainly, as far as customary law was concerned, the subject had previously been regarded as exclusively the preserve of anthropologists rather than lawyers. However, his commitment, vision and enthusiasm conquered all and his achievements live on, for example in the *Journal of African Law*, now in its 46th year of publication. These qualities extended to his role in the life of the School. He was Head of the Department of Law from 1971 until 1978, and again briefly in 1986 after the premature death of Noel Coulson. He was instrumental in the introduction – against considerable opposition – of the LLB, which was to become one of the School's most successful undergraduate programmes. The new Junior Health Minister, David Lammy is an alumnus. Outside of the Department, he chaired the Committee on Teaching, the Centre of African Studies, the local branch of the AUT and the Committee for Extramural Studies, the precursor of today's *Interface*. However, his academic life did not encompass all. Chair of a bench of magistrates, governor of St Bartholomew's Medical School, Papal Knight, tree planter extraordinary, major figure in the Commonwealth Magistrates and Judges Association (CMJA), he will be missed by so many people from so many walks of life in so many countries. Only a few weeks before he died, he was in London to retire from the Chair of the Editorial Board of the *Commonwealth Judicial Journal*. Our deep sympathy goes to his widow, Anna, herself a member of the academic staff of the School for many years, and their children.

Dr Peter Slinn
Senior Lecturer in Law



Professor A N (Tony) Allott Emeritus Professor of African Law in the University of London (centre, photograph from a CMJA workshop in Trinidad)

'The voice of Africa'

Christopher Bickerton, one of the first to gain a degree in Hausa at SOAS (1959-1962), presented the BBC World Service's Focus on Africa programme for 30 years. (2 January 1941 – 27 May 2002)

Archibald Charles Barnes (Chinese Studies 1949-1952) has died aged 71 years (1931-2002).

Stefan Mark Corley (MSc Economics 1995-1996) was tragically killed in a road accident in November 2001, aged 29 years. His parents would like to hear from anyone who knew him. Tel 01234 266581 or bcorley.bedford@tinyworld.co.uk

Dr Margaret Ruth Huxley (Phd Art and Archaeology, 1980-1984) has died on 5th July 2002, after complications with a hip transplant in Australia.

Stanley Isherwood has written to let us know of the death of his wife, Jane Margaret Isherwood (née Fletcher) (BA in Arabic, 1965-1968) on 15 September 2002. He can be contacted on: stanley.isherwood@sympatico.ca

Dr Judith Jacob Senior Lecturer in Cambodian (1948-1988) has died on 24 October 2002.

Peter Record (MA Area Studies South East Asia 1991-1992; Occasional Student, Indonesian Language 1992-1993) died in the bomb explosion in Bali, Indonesia, 14 October 2002, aged 32 years.

John Edward Wansbrough (19 February 1928 – 10 June 2002) Professor of Semitic Studies and Pro-Director of SOAS has died at his home in France aged 74 years.



Professor Robert Springborg



Professor Tom Tomlinson,
Dean, Faculty of Arts & Humanities



Professor Graham Furniss,
Dean, Faculty of Languages & Cultures



Professor Stephen Chan,
Dean, Faculty of Law & Social Sciences



Professor Michel Hockx



Dr Mandy Bentham

New Director for London Middle East Institute

Professor Robert Springborg has been appointed Professor in Middle Eastern Politics and Director of the new London Middle East Institute (LMEI). He has held academic positions in America and Australia and most recently was the director of the American Research Centre in Egypt.

Faculty Launch Reception

A reception was held on Thursday 1 August 2002, in the Staff Common Room, to mark the launch of the three new faculties at SOAS and to thank everyone for their involvement in making it possible. It was also an opportunity to meet the three new Deans (pictured left).

Chair of Chinese

Professor Michel Hockx (left) has succeeded Professor Hugh Baker who retired this year as Chair of Chinese. Michel studied at Leiden and in the People's Republic of China, he has taught at SOAS since 1996. His field of study is modern Chinese literature and poetry, he has published widely in English, Dutch and Chinese on this and comparative literature and is a fluent speaker of Putonghua (Mandarin). Other incumbents of the Chair were Sir Reginald Johnston (who was Personal Tutor to the last Emperor of China), and Professor Eve Edwards, one of the first women professors in SOAS.

Curriculum Adviser

Dr Mandy Bentham (left) has been appointed to the new post of Curriculum Adviser, supporting academic colleagues in reviewing and revising the curriculum, and in new approaches to learning and teaching, for example, through the use of virtual learning environments.

Mark Gaved joins SOAS in the new post of E-learning Developer, based centrally in the IT Department, within the newly-created e-learning support section. His responsibilities include developing the CEFIMS On-line Study Centre, currently in its pilot stage.

Jo Price is the new Staff Development Officer.

Staff photograph

On Tuesday 11 June staff assembled in the courtyard for a group photograph. The most recent staff photos were taken in 1982 and 1990.

300 years' service

On 18 June, a Summer Party for leavers was hosted by the Staff Common Room Committee. Professor Colin Bundy paid tribute to the leavers, calculating that their combined service to the School came to more than 300 years.

Dr David Taylor (Pro-Director for Taught Courses and Senior Lecturer in Politics – South Asia) has left to take up his new post as Vice-Provost at the Agha Khan University in Karachi.

Emeritus status will be granted on their retirement to the following four: **Hugh Baker**, Professor of Chinese, who has stepped down as Head of the Department of East Asia but continues as Dean of Interface (see inside back cover) and with fundraising for the China Centre; **Louis Brenner** (Professor of the History of Religion in Africa); **Dick Hayward** (Professor of Ethiopian Linguistic Studies); and **Roderick Whitfield** (Professor of Chinese and East Asian Art).

Professor Tony Allan, who is retiring from full-time teaching and research after over 30 years at SOAS and, latterly, Kings College London, will be continuing to work part-time; also retiring: Dr David Bennett, Mr Simon Weightman, Dr Manas Chitakasem, Ms Patricia Dunseith, Mr Ramesh Dogra, Mr James Carlisle and Dr Michael Brett; and leaving are: Dr Ulrike Freitag, Dr David Anderson, Fiona English and Ms Anne Tynan, the School's first Student Disability Officer.

Frank Dabell, Secretary and Registrar, will take early retirement from 31 December 2002, but continue on a half-time contract as Clerk to the Governing Body, in an advisory capacity

AHRB Award for A World of Beasts

Dr Anna Contadini, Department of Art and Archaeology, has been awarded £70,000 from the Arts and Humanities Research Board to produce, with postdoctoral research assistant Dr Moya Carey, a two volume publication: *A world of beasts: 13th and 14th century illustrated Arab and Persian books on animals*. In the second year, an interdisciplinary conference on early Arab and Persian painting and related textual tradition will be held at SOAS.

Robin Munro, Sir Joseph Hotung Senior Research Fellow in the Law Department has received the American Psychiatric Association's 2003 Award for Patient Advocacy in recognition of his recent book *Dangerous Minds: political psychiatry in China today and its origins in the Mao Era* (published by Human Rights Watch and the Geneva Institute on Psychiatry, August 2002).

In June 2002, **Nicholas Sims-Williams**, Professor of Iranian and Central Asian Studies, was elected associé étranger of the Académie des Inscriptions et Belles-Lettres, Paris. The Académie, one of the five constituent academies of the l'Institut de France (founded in 1663 under Colbert), confers membership on leading national and international specialists in history, archaeology and philology. The number of 'associés étrangers' is limited to 40, world-wide.

A Hausa/Chadic Roundtable took place on Saturday 30 November at SOAS, to mark the launch of: **Chadic and Hausa Linguistics: Selected Papers of Paul Newman with Commentaries, edited by Philip J. Jaggard** and H. Ekkehard Wolff. (Köln: Rüdiger Köppe Verlag, 2002).

Ralph Fox



Ralph Fox

Thirteen years ago a young Englishman, shivering with cold inside his sheepskin coat, his face as yellow with malaria as the crumbling loess and frozen sand-drifts around him, stood by the single track of railway that runs through the delta of the Jaxartes by the Aral Sea, on its way to the deep valleys and fertile plains of the land of the Uzbek Turks...

from: *Genghis Khan* by Ralph Fox (London: John Lane The Bodley Head, 1936). In the introduction, Ralph Fox – late of 23 Russell Square – gives thanks to Sir E Dennison Ross, School of Oriental Studies for his ‘constant advice and help’.

When Alumni Relations was based on the 4th floor of 23-24 Russell Square, the occasional visitor would wander in who had seen the brown plaque, erected by Camden Borough Council, on the corner of the building:

**T S Eliot
Poet and Publisher worked
here for Faber & Faber
1925-1965**

Now another – intriguing - literary connection with 23-24 Russell Square has come to light.

“Today I met Gavin Fox, nephew of Ralph Fox,” writes Richard Poulson, SOAS’ Building Services Manager. “Ralph Fox fought with the International Brigade in the Spanish Civil War (where he died). He was a founder of the *Daily Worker*, visited Russia (including a spell in Georgia) during the revolution. He was also an author on matters of politics on which he published extensively. His SOAS connection is 23 Russell Square, where he was resident shortly before he was killed. I gave Gavin a tour of 23 Russell Square (including the area that once

comprised the flat where Ralph Fox may have been resident). Gavin has recently helped the Imperial War Museum put together an exhibition on the International Brigade and is actively researching his uncle.”

Another ghost wandering the corridors of 23-24 Russell Square... It was too intriguing, not to follow up. Gavin Fox described how, in 2000, he visited the memorial to his uncle in Lopera:

“I met the Mayor and was shown around the old trenches, it being described to me ... how Ralph was killed when attacking a Nationalist position on a hilltop. I rode all the way from Halifax... on my bicycle as I felt that this was a pilgrimage which needed to be taken at a slow pace to absorb some of Spain and appreciate its people, culture and countryside.”

“I shall be visiting Heather Stewart in Sydney later this year, she was a close friend of the late Christina Stead, a well known and controversial Australian author who fell madly in love with Ralph prior to him being killed at Lopera in the Spanish Civil War.”

“Earlier this year I received a magazine produced by the newly formed Friends of the International Brigades and in it was a note to say that Ralph Fox’s wife Annie had just passed away in Torquay. Almost simultaneously a letter arrived from Heather Stewart in Sydney enclosing a copy of a marriage certificate showing the address at the time of marriage in Holborn to be 23 Russell Square. Annie and Ralph were married in April 1936 and Ralph was killed in January 1937. As I was in London at the time I was keen to see where he lived, so my visit to you!”

“However, when I left you I went to visit a cousin of mine who lives in Pimlico and whose father was one of Ralph’s four brothers. She said he had never lived in Russell Square and, even more surprising, no one in the family had ever heard of his “wife” Annie. His wife was called Madge! Even more surprising, I found out that my Aunt Betty, Ralph’s only sister, was still alive and living in a home in Pulborough. She was obviously quite shocked at the news and the mystery that surrounds it all. So it was the death of Annie that led me to 23 Russell Square but I have no idea where we go from there!”

Interview with Jon Fletcher (Co-Editor of The *POST*)

What did you study at SOAS?

I took the MSc in Politics of the Middle East (2000-2001) and a subsidiary in Arabic.

How did you first become interested in the subject?

One of my second year undergrad courses at Exeter was an Introduction to the Politics of the Middle East. I went into the course without any expectations, but loved it. I think the number of factors involved in the politics of the Middle East make the dynamics of the region incredibly fluid and organic, which in turn makes it an incredibly exciting and rewarding area to study.

In my third year I took a more detailed course, partly run by Bruce Stanley, who I think now teaches at SOAS. The course included a three week internet simulation of a conference on water issues and by the end of that, I was hooked. I spent the following year saving, and took a four-month trip through the region before beginning my Masters.

The *POST*, ‘the magazine for London postgraduates’ was launched in 2001. Can you tell me a bit more about it?

I knew I wanted to work in print media, but had little or no experience. When I got to SOAS I found that, despite the relatively large proportion of post grads studying at the college, there were very few services catering to their needs. My need for experience and the obvious need for a publication reflecting the needs of post grads coincided, and I decided to try to set up a magazine. Tytti Nahi in the Student Union was very helpful and supportive, as were a large number of friends, contributors and interviewees, and by the end of the academic year we had produced two issues.

The magazine was very well received and was short listed for an NUS/Independent student media award, which gave me the inspiration to carry it on after I left SOAS. Liam Frost, the SOAS Student Union president for 2001-2002 joined me as co-editor, and since then the magazine has gone from strength to strength.

More recently, we realised that the readership is potentially far broader than just those students studying at SOAS, and we have extended the distribution of the magazine to include many other central London colleges, including LSE, Birkbeck and Kings. We aim to make the content of the magazine lively and thought-provoking, reflecting the real interests of post grads studying in the capital. The magazine has a print run of 6000 supported by a regularly updated website (<http://www.the-post.co.uk>) and we are trying to become financially self-sufficient through a combination of grants, sponsorship and advertising. If there are any Alumni readers interested in supporting us, I’d be more than happy to hear from them!

What have you been doing since your MSc?

Using the experience I gained from editing The *POST* I was able to get a job as a sub-editor working for the RICS Foundation in Westminster. The Foundation aims to improve awareness of the need for our towns and cities to become more sustainable and publishes research to back this up. One of our greatest achievements has been the creation of a Global Alliance for Building Sustainability (GABS), which will act as a platform on which businesses, NGOs and government agencies can share ideas and develop more sustainable working practices. The Alliance was launched alongside the World Summit in Johannesburg in August at an event attended by the UK Environment Minister, Michael Meacher.



Jon Fletcher

Would any of the Foundation’s research be of particular interest to SOAS alumni?

We do produce a series, called *Our Common Estate*, that covers issues related to sustainable development in the developing world, and focuses in particular on land-related topics. Our Common Estate is free, the idea being that academics and policy makers in developing countries should have access to research regardless of the resources available to them. Subjects covered by recent papers have ranged from the problems caused by the imposition of foreign rules of land sale and purchase in Ghana, to the difficulties encountered in mapping refugee camps in Gaza.

How can alumni who are interested in this area, keep informed of developments?

The best way to find out more about our research is to visit our website at www.rics-foundation.org.

**Jon Fletcher
Jon@rics-foundation.org**

(We also produce a regular, monthly e-mail update on our recently published and forthcoming research. You can subscribe to this by e-mailing news@rics-foundation.org quoting “SUBSCRIBE” in the subject field.)

Alumni Profiles

1946

Stewart Deuchar
(Mandarin, Occasional Student,
Department of Far East
(now East Asia), 1945-1946)



I was privileged to spend 2 years in Beijing training to be an Army interpreter (1946-1948), and then spent some years in HQ Landforces, Hong Kong. But the Far East did not suit my wife's health, so I chucked the Army and became a (small) farmer. My Chinese was neglected for nearly fifty years, though I did keep contact with some Chinese friends.

I have always dreamed of meeting more Chinese people and using my language again. 18 months ago I discovered that there is a Chinese Christian church holding services (both Mandarin and Cantonese) on Sunday afternoons in nearby Milton Keynes. My wife and I could not have been made more welcome. Since then I have been going regularly. I am thrilled to have so many wonderful Chinese friends.

Naturally, I have made strenuous efforts to improve my rusty Chinese. I have found a combination of the Bible and audiotapes by far the most helpful materials. I play the tapes constantly, sometimes following the text in Chinese (both the traditional and abbreviated characters). I am lucky that, soon to be 85 years, I am still able to learn new things.

The next stage was to offer free lessons in 'Mandarin for Beginners' to the four parents of two young men intending to marry Chinese girls. My present pupil is a girl of 17 years who is a born linguist, and a joy to teach. Lesson One: we plunged straight into the Bible - The Prodigal Son - which she could soon recite in a recognisable accent almost from memory, and which tells you just about all you need to know about Chinese grammar, for the time being anyway. Only now are we getting down to Hillier and All That. It is a real adventure.

I still have my old Matthews and Fenn dictionaries, but the Fenn is falling to pieces, almost unusable. I haven't found anything to replace them. I have two modern dictionaries, but in one the characters are so small I cannot read them even with a magnifying glass, and anyway neither of them helps with unfamiliar characters.

As a keen member of a Chinese Christian church in England, I am interested in what is happening in China in this field and, also, I am deeply interested in education. I would like to have pen friends in mainland China. Pen friends – please get in touch!

Stewart@sdeuchar.freemove.co.uk

1947

Alan Young
(Cantonese, Occasional Student,
1945-1947; BA Modern Chinese,
Department of East Asia, 1948-1951)

Two weeks before the official end of WW2, Alan F Young was called up. As part of a language student intake reporting to the Intelligence Corps Depot at Wentworth Woodhouse, near Rotherham in Yorkshire he underwent a 2-week course of basic military training, then departed for London, to join the Services Unit for Language Training (SULT) in Sussex Square:

I joined a collection of other young soldiers, mostly from the Intelligence Corps, but with a sprinkling from other Corps and Regiments. We were sorted into two groups, one group to learn Cantonese (to which I was assigned) and one Hokkien.

Dr Walter Simon, Reader in Chinese, gave us an introductory lecture. He detailed the strange sounds of Cantonese and Hokkien and how to make them. For instance, - “NG” - press your tongue against your bottom teeth. I also remember him illustrating one sound by opening his mouth wide and saying “Watch my uvula”.

The language courses were run by the Far East Department presided over by Professor Evangeline (Eve) D Edwards. She should have been appointed Professor of Chinese in 1931 but the Election Committee instead chose Sir Reginald Johnstone, the former tutor of Pu Yi, the last Emperor of China. She was eventually made Professor in 1938.

Lessons were held in Sussex Square five days a week and on Saturdays we paraded for foot drill in the Square. One memory of this is the Corporal whose voice was not really of parade ground strength marching a squad and giving the order “About Turn” whereupon half the squad turned about, but the rest, furthest from him, marched on. He bellowed “About Turn” and then both halves turned about and marched into each other.

About November, the Ministry of Information finally moved out of the SOAS building in Russell Square which had been requisitioned during the War, and we all transferred from Sussex Square. Our group was accommodated in the old houses the University owned in Woburn Square. I can remember the gas workers going on strike and the gas fire in our classroom wouldn't work so we sat huddled in our greatcoats. Originally, we were given a subsistence allowance

and expected to find our own accommodation, and another student and myself found lodgings with a family in Ealing. Unfortunately, after a month or so the husband, a railwayman, was diagnosed with tuberculosis. TB in those days being a very dangerous disease, difficult to cure, it was thought safer if we moved out. In November, SULT was allocated a former anti-aircraft gun site camp in Finsbury Park, North London. Everyone stayed there until the end of the course. We were provided with season tickets on the Underground from Manor House to Russell Square in order to get to and from SOAS. We went there each day after breakfast and returned for lunch and then went back again in the afternoon until five o'clock when we went back for dinner. After that we could do what we liked but our passes stated that we had to be back by midnight. If we wanted to go out at night it cost us nothing as we had our season tickets, the only snag was that the Park was closed at night so we had to climb over the fence at the Manor House Gate to get in and out. Just after the war a lot of the London theatres used to give away free tickets to servicemen and I went to many shows, among them the famous Oedipus with Laurence Olivier which is still written about by theatre historians today.

Looking back, I can see that the course was well structured, with a good balance between practical and academic work. We got a good grounding in spoken Cantonese and acquired a wide vocabulary. We also obtained a good basic knowledge of modern Chinese characters – in fact, I can still read most non-literary characters in Cantonese, as well as later acquired Mandarin.

What has happened to those who attended the Course? Roy Barter became Coroner of Liverpool; Godfrey Brown became a Professor at the University of Ghana and later Professor of Education at Keele; Hugh Howse was with me in the Malayan Civil Service and later Head of English by Radio at the BBC. He was awarded an OBE and died in the early 1990s. Denis Keen became a teacher in France and has retired there; T M Renowden was Headmaster of the Army Secondary School in Kuala Lumpur in 1956. Terence Sharp went into the Foreign Service and served all over the world. Ninian Smart became Professor of Comparative Religions at Lancaster and later at Santa Barbara; he died suddenly in January 2001. The rest – Bill Clough, Roy Fredericks, Chris Hubbard, Don Whittle, and John Woodward – neither Terence Sharp nor I have been able to find out what happened to them. The course ended in March 1947.

1957

Sir Harold (Hooky) Walker
(Arabic, Occasional Student
1956-1957; Amharic 1980s)



SOAS could be said to have set me on a course from which I have never recovered. In 1956-1957 I attended an introductory course in Arabic here before moving on to MECAS (the Middle East Centre for Arab Studies), the long since defunct Foreign Office-run school in Lebanon which in its day was famous - or infamous - in some Arab media as madrasatu'l-jawasis. This was the start of a Diplomatic Service career in which only two of my overseas postings were outside the Arab world and which ended unhappily if dramatically in Baghdad a few days before the bombs started falling in 1991.

One of my two assignments not in Arab countries was as ambassador to Addis Ababa in the late 80s. Again, SOAS provided me with the basic linguistic equipment - at least I could tell whether an Amharic sign over the road was a direction, an advertisement, or a party slogan, which could be vital information.

Ethiopia gave me a lasting interest in the aid process, and when I retired I made my prime commitment the charity CARE International. After doing a fund-raising job for CARE UK I was invited on to their board; in time I became chairman of the board, and from 1997 to 2001 I was President of CARE International itself. This markedly widened my Asian as well as my African horizons: I paid business visits among other places to Zimbabwe, the Sudan, Cambodia, India and Vietnam.

Now I am lucky enough to be Chairman of the Royal Society for Asian Affairs, a body with charitable status that exists to promote interest in the countries of Asia. Our centenary in 2001 was appropriately marked by the running of a joint seminar with SOAS, where incidentally I am a frequent beneficiary of the lecture programme offered by the Centre for Near and Middle Eastern Studies.

Walker.turaco@btinternet.com

1966

Dr L N Mittal
(Graduate student, Department
of Linguistics, 1964-1966)



I came to SOAS, after doing my MA (Hindi) and MA (Linguistics) from Agra University. After my return, I earned my PhD in Linguistics in 1967 using experimental data I collected during my stay at SOAS. I was a teacher for nearly 38 years, taking undergraduate and graduate classes in Hindi and Linguistics, and retired in 1988 at the age of 60 years as Principal of a college. After my retirement, I have been serving a non-profit

organisation in Mussoorie which works in the field of education in the Central Himalayas, and in the philosophy of Gandhiji. It explores alternatives to formal education, and documents traditional systems of knowledge, still prevalent in villages.

1967

Dr Asok Kumar Das
(MA, LLB, Diploma in
Museology, PhD History of
Art-Islamic Art, 1964-1967)



I worked with the Indian Museum, Kolkata (1963-1972) and then with the Maharaja Sawai Man Singh II Museum, Jaipur as Director (1972-1988). I was a Senior Visiting Fellow at the Victoria & Albert Museum, London (1991-1993), Jawaharlal Nehru Fellow (1993-1995) and Satyajit Ray Chair at Visva-Bharati, Santiniketan (1996-1997). The books published by me include: Mughal Painting During Jahangir's Time (Asiatic Society, Calcutta, 1978); Dawn of Mughal Painting and Splendour of Mughal Painting (Vakils, Mumbai, 1982, 1986); and Mughal Masters Further Studies (Edited, Marg Publications, Mumbai, 1998)

asokkdas@sancharnet.in

Lorna Durrani formerly Hawker
(BA Honours Arabic - Classical
and Modern Literary,
1964-1967)



After leaving SOAS, I was at Linacre College, University of Oxford (1969-1972) where I gained the Diploma in Social Anthropology and wrote my M.Litt. thesis on the Changing Social Position of Women in Tunisia. From 1972 to 1995 I worked for Durham Social Services as a Senior Social Worker and Multi-agency Child Protection Trainer, and for the University of Durham as Lecturer in Social Work. I live in Canterbury with my husband Osman Durrani who is Professor of German at the University of Kent at Canterbury and our two sons. I work as Senior Lecturer in Social Work and Early Childhood Studies at Canterbury Christ Church University College where my particular interests are Young Child Observation and Practice Teaching.

ld16@cant.ac.uk

1971

Professor Shereen Khairallah
(PhD History NME, 1967-1971)

I am currently teaching at Haigazian University, in Beirut. My duties are many. Actually, believe it or not, I am Chair of the Department of English, but also teach history and cultural studies. There are alumni here in the Lebanon, but we rarely see each other, owing to work.

However, there are many who have been to SOAS, and we meet up once a year at a gathering of the Lebanese Graduates of British Universities, an NGO to help students going to England.

skhairallah@haigazian.edu.lb

1976

Nesta Hatendi
(BA African History 1973-1976)



I was a Voluntary Service Overseas (VSO) Programme Director on secondment to The Gambia from February to May 2002. During my short stay there, I met Dr Florence Mahoney (PhD African History 1960-1963). I spent a wonderful afternoon with her, talking about the current politics and the history of The Gambia, among other topical issues. It was fascinating to know that she was a student of Professor Oliver, one of my supervisors during my course at SOAS. She also worked under Dr Fage and is probably one of the first female PhD African History graduates from The Gambia.

nhatendi@ecoweb.co.zw

1983

Dr Atiur Rahman
(MSc, PhD Economics, 1978-1983)

I am Senior Research Fellow at the Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS). I am also the chairman of the Board of Directors of Unnayan Shamannay, a non-profit research organization in Bangladesh. Till recently, I was the chairman of the Board of Directors of Janata Bank, the second largest public bank of Bangladesh. Recently I have edited two major publications entitled People's Report on the Environment 2001 (in two volumes) and Alternative Budget Analysis (in three volumes).

atiur@sdnbd.org

1988

Jason Elliot
(BA Persian Language, 1985-1988)

An Unexpected Light: Travels in Afghanistan
(London: Picador, 1999)

1991

Monica Brain
(BA Turkish and Art and
Archaeology, 1987-1991)



After arriving at SOAS as a mature student (life can begin at forty!), I left London to spend four years in Dublin where I did a Teaching English as a Foreign Language course and taught English to everyone but the Irish... Guiltily forgetting all my Turkish vocabulary, but always maintaining

my interest and connections in the arts of Europe, as well as Islamic culture. I now divide my time between my homes in England and France, this latter having offered me another career opportunity. 2001 saw the publication of my first translation (from French to English) of Professor Nicole Belayche's Iudaea-Palaestina. Pagan cults in Roman Palestine (Second to Fourth Century) (Mohr Sieback, Tübingen, 2001); a book which may be of interest to many with SOAS connections. I look forward to the opportunity to continue with my translation work.
Monica.brain@laposte.net

Susie Weeks
(BA Geography 1991-1994)



Since leaving, I have worked in tourism, film and conservation in Kenya and Tanzania and I obtained an MSc in Environmental Protection and Management at Edinburgh University. I currently work for a conservation Trust for Mount Kenya dividing my time between Nairobi and the mountain. I'd love to hear from my old flatmates and other alumni whom I have lost touch with. Bill Woodley Mount Kenya Trust PO Box 20139, Nairobi 00200, Kenya.

susie@mountkenyatrust.com

1995

Edward Adams
(MA Area Studies South Asia, 1993-1995)

I am currently living in Belsize Park, North London. Still juggling continuing interest in religions of India with working in book publishing and various other business distractions. My two boys, however, remain my main postgraduate education!
belsize999@aol.com

1995

Kilian Bälz
(LLM 1994-1995) was elected partner of GLEISS LUZ from 2002, a leading German corporate law firm which he joined in 1999. Kilian is specialising in international corporate and M&A work with a particular focus on, but not limited to, the Middle East and North Africa. In addition, he advises Islamic financial institutions in connection with their activities in the German market. On the side, he has preserved his academic interest in Islamic and Middle Eastern law and is, inter alia, member of the board of the (German) Association of Arab and Islamic Law.
kilian.baelz@gleisslutz.com



Jenny Mauger
BA (Economics of Developing Countries, 1992-1995)

I am currently working as a computer programmer in Bournemouth, Dorset but I return to London on a regular basis. I'm a single, working mum with a seven- month-old son. I would love to hear from anyone I studied with, as I gradually lost touch with everyone (Rupe, Blue, Pete, Marcus, Kat, Kate...). Please e-mail me – I'd love to hear from you.
jenny.mauger@zelana.co.uk

1996

Susan Wickremasinghe Gunasekera
(BA Politics, 1996)



I am working for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Sri Lanka, and completing an MPhil/PhD at the Faculty of Graduate Studies, University of Colombo. My thesis "Nationalism: a Case Study of Sri Lanka" looks at the rise and growth of nationalism in British Colonial Sri Lanka. Through the case study, I hope to show how successful theories of nationalism are in explaining the rise and growth of nationalism.
suzzana87@hotmail.com

Dr Farian Sabahi
(MA History – Africa, 1995-1996; PhD, History, 1996-1999)



In the academic year 2002-2003 I shall teach the course on the History of Iran in the 20th century at Geneva University, Switzerland and the course Understanding Islam at Bocconi Business School in Milan, Italy.
sabahi00@hei.unige.ch

Mr Koshi Oizumi
(MSc Financial Economics, CIEE, 1995-1996)

I am currently working for Hartford Life Insurance K.K (Kabushiki Kaisha or stock company) in Tokyo.

oizumi-yk@jcom.home.ne.jp

1997

Gabriela Prunier
(MSc Development Studies, 1996-1997)



I am currently living in Paris working for the SUEZ group Société Industrielle de Transports Automobiles (SITA) as Project Manager on solid waste issues in developing countries. I am still in touch with quite a few people from the MSc: Sara Macoun, Jeanne Delaunay, Ishani Goonasekera, Hiroko Higuchi. It is great fun

to know what all of them have become and where they are living. I would be happy to hear from other people from the MSc.
prunierg@hotmail.com

Marc Worthy
(LLM 1996-1997)

In December 2001, I was appointed to the position of Assistant Attorney General with the Washington State Attorney General's Office. It is a challenging position that I am enjoying very much. In addition, I was recently commissioned a First Lieutenant in the United States Army Reserve Judge Advocate General Corps. I am undertaking the United States Army's Officer Basic Course at Fort Lee, Virginia this September.
mw@attbi.com

2000

Joseph Tse-Hei Lee
(MA in African and Asian History, 1994; PhD 2000)
is currently Assistant Professor of History at Pace University in New York City. He has just published The Bible and the Gun: Christianity in South China, 1860-1900 (New York and London: Routledge, 2003).
jlee@pace.edu

2001

Prabhu Babu
(MPhil History)

In 2001, I completed an MPhil and then took a yearlong sabbatical leave to do a Masters programme at the London School of Economics. These days I have taken my examinations at LSE, and I look forward to rejoining SOAS in October for the second year of my PhD. SOAS is my first love, and I love to be there.
p_babu@hotmail.com

2002

On 15 August 2002
Connor Walsh
(BA Chinese) was awarded third prize at The First Chinese Language Proficiency Competition for Foreign University Students - entitled Chinese Bridge, in Beijing, People's Republic of China. His performance was deemed 'entertaining and worth praising'.

Tokyo Visit



From left to right: Sangeeta Banerjee, Tatsuo Ihara, Ms Nagao

On a visit to Tokyo in October, Sangeeta Banerjee, Alumni Relations Assistant, met up with members of the SOAS Japan Alumni Association (SAIJ) during an informal gathering of the London Alumni Party at the Meguro Tavern.

Evening drop-in parties are held on the third Friday of every month and SOAS alumni are always welcome. (More photos of the party can be found on: www.geocities.co.jp/CollegeLife-Library/5850/Drop-in/18Oct2002/index.html)

Tatsuo Ihara plans to step down as Chair of the SAIJ Committee at the end of the year, replaced by Ms Nagao, but he will remain on the Executive Board. Visit the SAIJ website at <http://homepage2.nifty.com/csf/saijhp/index.html>

Alumni Dinner in Hanoi



Alumni Dinner in Hanoi organised by Informal Contact Adam McCarthy (standing, third from right, 2nd row) with alumni, family and friends and visiting SOAS Head of Student Recruitment, Cath Baldwin (seated centre).

ASSOCIATIONS Update

Hong Kong/PRC Alumni

On 22 November 2002, alumni met Professor Baker and his wife as a follow-up to the small reception for alumni he hosted in March. We now have a lot of members interested in forming a Hong Kong Association and this is an ideal opportunity to start the ball rolling. If you wish to join, please email eh3@soas.ac.uk

India

In September, we were delighted to receive a visit from Nayantara Palchoudhuri, our informal contact (poppet@cal2.vsnl.net.in), in London. On 10 November 2002, she hosted a dinner for alumni in Calcutta, with special guest Fiamma Shani, International Co-ordinator, SOAS Student Recruitment Office, who was attending the British Council Education UK Fair.

The London SOAS Alumni Association (LSAA) hosted a dinner on Wednesday 23 October to mark the retirement of Professor Hugh Baker as Head of the Department of East Asia. The dinner was held at one of Professor Baker's favourite haunts, Poons Restaurant on Woburn Place, with a menu specially selected by him - a Chinese gastronomic feast. Alumni in attendance ranged from friends from Hugh's days as a SOAS student in the 1950s, to his own students up to the late 1990s.

Professor Michel Hockx, the new Chair of the Department, gave a wonderful toast to Hugh's achievements, remarking on how lively and friendly a group the LSAA are. Future LSAA plans include creating a lecture series by SOAS academics for alumni, a tour of BBC Monitoring and a dinner with the new Faculty deans in November.

For details on LSAA membership please contact Emma Hewett on eh3@soas.ac.uk

Vietnam

On 20 November, Adam McCarthy, our informal contact (adam@hn.vnn.vn), organised a dinner for alumni in Hanoi to coincide with a visit by Catherine Baldwin, Head of Student Recruitment (pictured left).

Alumni don't forget to send us your up-to-date address for our mailing list!
Alumni@soas.ac.uk

Informal Contacts - Update

The following are new or additional contacts, to those listed on the website.
See <http://www.soas.ac.uk> (Alumni) for a complete list.

AUSTRALIA

Contact: Dr James Eedle
(eedle@netconnect.com.au)

Aymen Khalifa
(MSc Development Studies, 1995-1996), formerly our contact in Egypt, has been posted to Sydney, Australia, to set up an Asia-Pacific office of his company Visiontime, LLC (headquarters in Santa Barbara, California). He writes: <http://www.soas95.com> is alive and well. Graduates of 1995 and others can contact me on: alumni@soas95.com.

The British Council are inviting alumni to join their programme:
www.britishcouncil.org.au/alumni

FRANCE

Nick Barnville
(MSc Political Economy of Development, 1999-2000) is currently Marketing Manager at INSEAD, juggling between Fontainebleau, France and Singapore. He has been working there since graduation and manages the demographic diversity of the school's participants.
nick.barnville@insead.edu



KENYA: NAIROBI

Radha R. Upadhyaya (formerly Radha J. Ruparel) (MSc in Economics with reference to South Asia, 1996-1997) is currently running the family business, Lotus Estate Agents, and is also Director of the Institute of Economic Affairs, Nairobi.



PO Box 42882
GPO 00100
Nairobi
Tel: 254 2 333654 / 222743
Mobile: 254 733 632046
ruparel@africaonline.co.ke

Allan Waweru Mburu (MSc in Development Studies, 1998-1999): I am currently the Deputy District Commissioner (DC) in Kirinyaga District, Central Province, Kenya and hope to rejoin SOAS soon for an MPhil. I would be very grateful to network with my former classmates who may get in touch on:
allanmburu@hotmail.com

KOREA

Joo-yong Lee
(Foundation course, 1993-1994; BSc Development Economics, 1994-1997)
Visit: <http://www.freechal.com/soas> or contact:
joomer@frechal.com

MALAYSIA

Contact: Jay Jayaratnam
jayaratnam@hotmail.com

Valerie Lynn
(MA Economic Development of South East Asia, 1998-1999) I am American, living in Kuala Lumpur, involved in corporate training and English instruction. I've been in Malaysia for two years, since June 2000. I was the Co-Chair of the South East Asian Society, a Senior Resident at Dinwiddy House and was a Student Ambassador which meant giving tours to prospective students, attending a few dinners and being involved in other activities to promote SOAS and allow students to enjoy their schooling there. I LOVED being at SOAS and am very proud to have attended that school. I would like to continue my affiliation, and to hear from other alumni in Malaysia or in the South East Asian region.

Home tel: 603-2094-1813
Hand phone: 012-2742-957
val1lynn@hotmail.com

PORTUGAL

Francisco – 'Xico' - Fontes
(Asian Art Postgraduate Foundation Course, 1996-1997): I live 25 km from Lisbon, am an ex-computer expert and work as an antique dealer in Lisbon. I can help alumni with anything you may need from here.
s.francisco@mail.telepac.pt

SCOTLAND:

Dumfries & Galloway

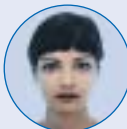
Miller Caldwell
(MA Area Studies, Africa, 1978-1979) has been Authority reporter to Children's Panels in Dumfries and Galloway since 1996. He is a direct descendant of Robert Burns and was President (2000-2001) of the Dumfries Club, the town where Burns is buried. He is married to Jocelyn and has two daughters, Fiona and Laura. Miller Caldwell, whose profile was in the Alumni Newsletter, Summer 2000, has agreed to act as a point of contact for Alumni in Scotland. He writes: "Perhaps you could remind alumni that SOAS is on the Friends Reunited website."

miller.caldwell@talk21.com

WALES

Rouna Ali
(BA Social Anthropology, 1997-2000)
I went travelling to Canada as soon as I finished my degree. Later on that same year, I was lucky enough to go on an *Umrh Hajj* (pilgrimage) to Makkah and Madinah in Saudi Arabia. For the last 18 months I have been working for University of Wales College of Medicine (UWCM) as a Course Co-ordinator organising a Postgraduate distance learning programme for Doctors and other health professionals.

(H) rounaali@hotmail.com
(W) alirb@cardiff.ac.uk



USA: Washington

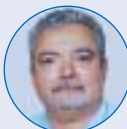
Christopher Boucek
(MA in Near and Middle Eastern Area Studies, 1998-1999): I was previously the Managing Director and Cairo Bureau Chief of the *Middle East Times* (Cairo, Egypt). Currently, I do research and analysis on the Near East and Central Asia, and write often on regional security, terrorism, and the Muslim world for a number of occasions. I'm also the author of a forthcoming book on *Israeli Foreign Policy in Central Asia and the Caucasus* (2002) for The Johns Hopkins University. Alumni are welcome to contact me to organize some sort of SOAS-Washington event.

cboucek@aol.com
Tel: 202-257-4232

Republic of YEMEN

Dr Isam Muhammad Ghanem
(MA Area Studies, NME, 1969-1970; FCMI, PhD (Laws – London, External) has worked as a consultant, manager and lawyer specialising in the commercial aspects of Middle Eastern and Common Law. His experience in the business sector covers general trading, banking, publishing, pack-printing, quality food imports, construction and industry. Dr Ghanem's published works in UK learned journals include articles on law, management, Yemeni affairs and forensic medicine. Dr Ghanem is country representative in Yemen of the Arab Regional Forum of the International Bar Association, London; Deputy Director-General, International Biographical Centre, Cambridge; and Advocate of the Court of Cassation in Sanaa.

dr_isam_ghanem@hotmail.com



Thank you to Aymen Khalifa (EGYPT) and Steffen Pedersen (TAIWAN) who are now stepping down. If anyone would like to volunteer to be an informal contact, please contact us: alumni@soas.ac.uk

SOAS INTERFACE'S FIRST BIRTHDAY

SOAS Interface had its first birthday last month and despite the puzzled look that its name still brings to some faces, it has been an interesting and busy year for the team of four (right). The new department was set up last summer to act as a link between SOAS and clients from the public and private sectors who can benefit from the School's academic expertise through briefings and consultancy.



SOAS Interface (from left to right): Louise Roberts (Business Development Manager), Professor Hugh Baker (Dean) Sue Yates (Business Development Director), Rachael Robson (Executive Officer)

Highlights from Interface's first year include the re-launch of scheduled briefings (four dates for China and Japan this year and plans to organise ten dates for 2003 covering additional countries and regions) and tailored briefings for ambassadors from Sweden and Ireland bound for Malaysia, Nigeria and Alexandria. Interface also ran a Korea/Japan culture and language seminar, in conjunction with the Language Centre, for sports journalists covering the World Cup and has been responsible for organising the ongoing tailored study programme for Sheikh Mohamed Bin Issar Al Jaber who was awarded an Honorary Fellowship at this summer's graduation ceremony.

As well as using the expertise of SOAS academics for these activities, Interface call on people from outside who have first-hand experience of a particular country or region. SOAS alumnus Antony Goldman made an invaluable contribution to the briefing for Birgitta Alani, Sweden's ambassador to Nigeria and her husband Lars Holst in August. We were also lucky to work with Sir Harold Walker (see profile, page 18) who shared his extensive diplomatic experience with Jan Henningsson and his wife Birgitta prior to their departure for Egypt this summer.

We are keen to hear from SOAS alumni who would be interested in using their knowledge or up-to-date experience of Asia, Africa or the Middle East to contribute to similar briefings. If you think you can help (we will pay you for your efforts!) please get in touch with us using the contact details below. We'll also be delighted to hear from anyone working for an organisation that may benefit from Interface services and other outreach activities such as language training.

Louise Roberts
Business Development Manager

(Louise Roberts joined SOAS in August 2001 from International House where she was Marketing Executive for Western Europe.)

SOAS Interface Tel: 020 7898 4832 Fax: 020 7898 4839
E-mail: interface@soas.ac.uk

Forthcoming Exhibitions:

The Arabian Peninsula Through the Ages:
an exhibition of historical maps and etchings/prints over a 500 year period
(15 January - 21 March 2003).

Contemporary Moroccan Art
(16 April - 20 June 2003).

For further information, please visit: www.soas.ac.uk/gallery or contact the Brunei Gallery.

The Brunei Gallery

SOAS
Thornhaugh Street
Russell Square
London WC1H 0XG
Tel: +44(0)20 7898 4046
Fax: +44(0)20 7898 4949
e-mail: gallery@soas.ac.uk

Recent exhibitions include:
Bernard Leach: Concept and Form
(8 October – 30 November 2002)
and Scenes from Libya
(14 October – 30 November 2002)