



People

ISSUE 29 WINTER 2006

Interview with
**New Director
and Principal**

Alumni
**Making a
Difference**



Welcome to
the new SOAS

People

OUR REVISED SOAS NEWSLETTER focuses on what makes SOAS special: the generations of wonderful people involved with the School. In *SOAS People*, which we hope to bring you twice next year, and more frequently thereafter (costs allowing), we want to pay particular attention to the news and views of our alumni. We encourage you to be in touch to help make *SOAS People* as relevant, interesting and as richly textured as the School itself.

To help our alumni programme move into a higher gear, the School has appointed Katie Walsh as Development Officer, Alumni to manage our new Online community and growing communications programme, and to work with our overseas contacts. If you haven't already done so, you can sign up for *SOAS E-Lumni*, the monthly e-newsletter to keep you up to date with events and news from the School, and from our worldwide contacts, by sending an email to katie.walsh@soas.ac.uk. Henty Bulley continues to work on alumni publications, and our newest recruit, Holly Peterson, joins us as Development Assistant this month.

I encourage everyone to take advantage of the discounted offer for the wonderful *SOAS: A Celebration in Many Voices* publication. The book will be published in July 2007, but your opportunity to subscribe at the reduced rate, and to be included in the book, runs out on December 31st this year. See the back cover of this newsletter for more information, and do order your copy soon.

As the title suggests, *SOAS People* is for you, and about you, so we hope you will continue to give us your ideas, suggestions and comments.



Pamela Barrett
Director of Development and Alumni Affairs

The new SOAS Online Community website



COMING SOON! SOAS Alumni Online Community

The SOAS Online Community for all alumni launches in January! This brand new website service is password protected and available only to the SOAS Alumni Community. We will be able to:

- Search for former friends and colleagues and be listed in alumni directories
- Update our records in the database
- Network for jobs
- Participate in discussion forums
- Donate on-line more effectively
- Get news and information about what's happening at SOAS
- Register for a SOAS e-mail for life
- Buy SOAS merchandise on-line
- Register for events

We need your help!

The Online community will only be as good as the quality of information and material alumni put into it. Please be sure that we have a current e-mail address for you so that you can receive instructions on how you can register. If you are in touch with other SOAS alumni, please encourage them to be in touch, and sign up. They can also sign up for our monthly e-newsletter, the *SOAS E-Lumni*.

We also need your input and opinions on the site for initial testing: to ensure that all aspects of the site work, that it is user friendly, and that it contains information of interest to you and fellow alumni.

Please send a quick email to Katie Walsh which includes your name, e-mail address, subject of study, and year of graduation. This will let her know you are interested in testing. Please contact Katie at katie.walsh@soas.ac.uk with any questions and we look forward to hearing from you!





Interview with **Professor Paul Webley**

SOAS welcomes its new Director and Principal, Professor Paul Webley, having bid farewell to Professor Colin Bundy in July 2006.

Could you tell us something about yourself?

I'm 52, married with three children (a daughter aged 26, and sons aged 24 and 16, both of whom are still at home). I'm a Londoner, and did both my undergraduate and postgraduate degrees at the London School of Economics. I played 5-a-side football for years (rather aggressively, according to opponents) but have now given up and confine myself to the vicarious pleasure of watching football on television. My idea of an ideal day is a walk in the hills, involving a visit to some historic site, followed by good food in the company of friends and family.

What are your academic interests?

I spent my first couple of years at L.S.E. studying economics and then switched to social psychology so it is perhaps not surprising that I have specialised in economic psychology. My general aim has been to explore the contribution that psychology can make to our understanding of problems that have traditionally been seen as the concern solely of economics. This has involved research into a wide range of areas at the intersection of economics and psychology, particularly personal finance (saving, debt and investment), tax compliance and children's economic behaviour. Some of this work has been carried out in Asia and Africa – for example, I have co-authored a couple of articles on Tswana children's understanding of poverty, wealth, banking and money, and am currently supervising postgraduate students doing theses on the economic psychology of poverty in rural Malaysia and tax compliance in China.

Why did SOAS appeal to you?

SOAS appealed to me for three main reasons. First and foremost, the School has by far and away the best aims of any higher education institution in the U.K. It is concerned with the places that matter in the 21st century (Africa, Asia and the Middle East) and the issues that matter (such as human rights, poverty reduction and globalisation, to name just three). It is full of passionate people who care about the world and it is a privilege, albeit a difficult task, to be their Director. Second, it takes research and teaching equally seriously. Far too many 'good' Universities these days put such an emphasis on research that their students are treated as second class citizens. This is not true at SOAS, where there is recognition that research and teaching are inextricably intertwined. One of our undergraduates, Rose Skelton, wrote in an earlier *Alumni Newsletter* that "You can go in [to SOAS] with one focus and come out finding that the world has opened up in ways you never thought possible". That opening out is what good education is all about, and what SOAS does superbly. And finally, SOAS appealed to me because it presents a significant managerial challenge. The higher education world is changing rapidly. In the UK we have the introduction of variable tuition fees and an increasing concentration of research funding. In the wider world new Universities are appearing and older ones developing. This all adds up to much greater competition and a need for change. Managing that change, maintaining the best of SOAS whilst fitting it for a new world is the challenge.

What things do you hope for in terms of the future direction of the School?

That's a big question, so I will mention just a few things. In my view, SOAS must maintain its focus on Africa, Asia and the Middle East. Some colleagues I have spoken to seem to think that SOAS could be a kind of mini L.S.E – I do not think this is viable or sensible. What makes SOAS special is its regional focus. I would hope to see a significant growth in interdisciplinary work: this will mean working not only with colleagues within SOAS but also with those at other institutions. Hopefully this would include collaborative working with scientists. I would also want to see SOAS developing a number of strategic partnerships with other institutions – this is important both financially and academically. And I think SOAS needs to make an explicit commitment over the next decade to focus on and engage with the contemporary world. This doesn't mean abandoning those areas where we have expertise which is renowned around the world and where we have carved out a significant niche. But it would mean a deliberate shift to a more contemporary focus when we expand our activities. Expansion is important: above all, SOAS must continue to grow. Over the past few years it has been transformed from a college to a University in all but name. But it is a small University and in order for it to be sustainable, it has to be bigger, with more students and more staff. This will mean refining our portfolio of degree programmes, developing more distance-learning options and more building. So I hope that when, in the future, the *Alumni Newsletter* asks me to look back on my Directorate, we will be a financially secure precinct University with an even greater world-class reputation.

“...maintaining the best of SOAS whilst fitting it for a new world is the challenge.”

Alumni Postbag

John Arnold (Mandarin, 1943)

At 82, he claims to be the oldest SOAS undergraduate hoodie. He had to leave Professor Simon's 18 month intensive Mandarin course in December 1943 to travel in Asia as an Intelligence Corps Lieutenant. After only 18 months at SOAS, they naturally could not give him a degree – but they did at least give him a Chinese surname. So, if you meet him just call him (Peace, man!) or, if you prefer, John Arnold... Same difference... He is really thrilled that two of his grandchildren are now undergraduates at SOAS, Zoe Goodman and Jon Goodman. John Arnold adds: 'The late and much lamented Sir Peter Parker, SOAS benefactor and president of the Anglo-Japan association was a fellow student with me in 1942-3 and we became great friends. He studied Japanese at SOAS while I studied Chinese. For some reason he always called me "Chiqui" - perhaps because of the Chinese connection. We formed a rugby club, which he captained. We called it "London Orient".' jarnold@gotadsl.co.uk

P G Willis (Turkish, 1955-6) writes: "Saw the second of our appearances on BBC2's University Challenge last night (24 January 2006), and was delighted at our victory over Churchill College, Cambridge. I sit watching the TV, wearing my SOAS scarf and cheering encouragement. Good luck in future contests!" P G Willis retired to the UK ten years ago having worked in the rubber industry for twenty years, in Malaysia and the USA

Emeritus Professor Geza Fehervari (MA in Archaeology, 1957-9; PhD in Art and Archaeology, 1959-61) and Mrs Iren Fehervari at an evening reception held on 27 March 2006 at SOAS to mark the launch of a book of studies in his honour *Sifting Sands: Reading Signs*. Amongst the contributors to the *Festschrift* were Geza's former colleagues Professor A D H Bivar, Professor H T Norris, and Professor Doris Behrens-Abouseif and former students, now themselves internationally recognised in their fields. The editors, Dr Patricia L Baker and Dr Barbara Brend, are also SOAS alumnae. The Ambassador of Hungary, HE Mr Béla Szombati attended, to present Professor Fehervari with the Order of Merit, one of the highest honours of Hungary, on behalf of the President of Hungary Dr Sólyom László. For copies of *Sifting Sands: Reading Signs: Studies in Honour of Professor Geza Fehervari* (Furnace Publishing, 2006) ISBN: 0955026601 contact: bookshop@soas.ac.uk or order through Amazon.co.uk

SOAS Students' Union Committee, 1956-7

Thank you to Professor Brian Hook for supplying the photograph (below). Members of the group interested in holding a reunion, please get in touch with Professor Hook on: bandbgh.orc@lineone.net *Top row, left to right:* Brian Evans (PhD Chinese, 1961); John Redding (Anthropology, Swahili, 1958); Brian Hook, President (Chinese, 1958); Trevor Le Gassick (PhD Arabic, 1959); Bishwanath Pandey (PhD History, 1955-8). *Bottom row, left to right:* B Barnacle (History); Judith Forshaw (Chinese); Shoba Mehta (Sanskrit), B Singh, Secretary (History).

Richard Widdess (MA South Asian Studies, 1973-4 and Professor of Musicology at SOAS) was presented with *The Music Forum (Mumbai) Award for contributions to Indian Music by a Non-Indian Personality* by Mr K S Sarma, Chief Executive, All India Radio and Television on 13 January 2006 in Mumbai.

HE Ambassador Andrew Tesoriere

(Persian Studies, 1975-6)

Since leaving SOAS in 1975, where I pursued Persian Studies under the aegis of Professor Nancy Lambton, I have worked with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, with secondments to the United Nations and European Union.

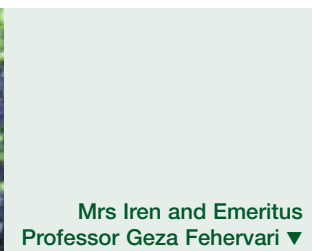
I am currently British Ambassador in Algeria. I would be happy to meet any SOAS colleagues, visiting or working on Algeria.

My Persian studies at SOAS took me through to further studies in Iran and to working in Afghanistan, initially as Oriental Secretary at the British Embassy but thereafter regular work on Afghanistan, recently with the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) as an electoral adviser in 2004 and 2005 but during "the Taliban period" as Head of the UN Special Mission (1998-2000) and UN Head of Humanitarian Field Operations (1994-5). I have also served as British Ambassador to Albania (1995-8) and to Latvia (2002-5). I continue to remain engaged on Iranian and Afghan issues.

Andrew.Tesoriere@fco.gov.uk



▲ John Arnold



Mrs Iren and Emeritus Professor Geza Fehervari ▼



▲ SOAS Students' Union Committee, 1956-7



Richard Widdess ▼



▲ HE Ambassador Andrew Tesoriere

Contact us with your news!

Thank you to everyone who has written in to the Development and Alumni Affairs office. Please get in touch with your news, profiles, photographs, events, publications and any other items of interest for alumni. Email: hb15@soas.ac.uk

HE Dr Andrew Hall (PhD Anthropology, 1979) In August 2006 Dr Hall was appointed British Ambassador to Nepal. 'It's a big responsibility; the UK has varied interests and large operations in Nepal. I am proud and excited to be taking on the position at this time.' His interest in the country stems back to school-days, when he went backpacking around Nepal before going to Keele University to study for a BA in Sociology. He did his PhD under the supervision of Christoph von Furer-Haimendorf, on the influence of Tibetan Buddhism on the Tamangs living in Thulo Syabru, Rasuwa district.

Barbara Stuart-Bargione

(BA Japanese, 1978)

I am Outreach Worker for REMAS (Refugee Education, Mentoring and Support into Higher Education), a joint Universities of Brighton and Sussex project, which works in partnership with local community organisations and aims to support refugees in Sussex who may not be familiar with how the British higher education system works. I would be pleased to make contact with anyone who would like to know more. B.M.Bargione@brighton.ac.uk

HE Dr François Barras (PHD, Law 1983) In March 2006 Dr Barras was appointed Ambassador of Switzerland to Lebanon. 'My academic field is legal anthropology and I wrote a thesis on land tenure in Burundi. I entered the Swiss Foreign Office in 1986 and since I have had postings in Tel Aviv, Washington, Mexico City, Abu Dhabi and Hong Kong.'

Giovanna Alfonzetti (Occasional student, Linguistics, 1983) is associate professor in Italian Linguistics at the University of Catania, Italy: As an occasional student I attended lectures and did some research on Malinowski, Firth and the London School of Linguistics under the supervision of Professor Robins. galfonz@unict.it

Mike Etiang

I graduated in 1991 with a Bachelor of Arts in Law and Politics from SOAS. The first Gulf War left me quite disillusioned with both fields of life that formed the subjects of my degree and having spent virtually all my adult life in the UK, I decided to try life back in Uganda, East Africa for a while. Quite bluntly, civil service salaries do not pay well in that part of the world and so I set my sights on pursuing a dormant but passionate childhood desire to fly. Having spent roughly a year helping out in the garage of an old family friend, I came across government sponsorship to train for a Commercial Pilot's Licence. (That is one good thing I must say for the government, it trains professionals in different fields, then lets them loose to the wild winds of the mushrooming private sector.) Anyway, and this is all true, I managed to get work as a pilot with Eagle Air, a local charter company, and spent the latter half of the nineties flying staff of NGOs and government, missionaries, tourists and even the military to different destinations in Uganda, Congo and East Africa. I eventually managed to join a cargo outfit that operates between Europe, Africa and the Middle East

and have been employed with them since 2002. The good Lord blessed me with a beautiful, intelligent wife (incidentally a lawyer) and we have a daughter aged 3 and a half (our second-born tragically died after just one week due to medical negligence, a widespread and pressing problem).

I miss the cerebral, conspiratorial nature of the SOAS community, the smell of ale and cigar fumes, colourful variety of its student mass, and the hostile scribbles found on the back of the toilet doors (quite a few useful quotes can be found there to get you through the day!) Miss great friends like Patrick McShine-Jones, Veronica White, Setu Vora, Refet, Barbara, Remi Oyewumi, Grace Achaempong, Paddy and the more charismatic lecturers as Professor Huxley, Werner Menski and Tom Young (your voices still echo in the narrowing recesses of my aging mind!) Truly life has taught me to fully respect the School's motto, knowledge is power.

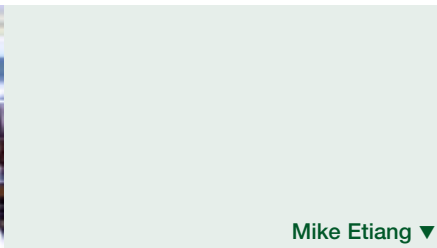
mikeetiang@yahoo.com

Tony Kehoe (BA Japanese, 1990-4), British *Kenshi* (martial arts' practitioner) of Irish descent, was awarded a certificate of merit by Miyamae Police Station in Kawasaki, Kanagawa Prefecture, Japan for bravery in overcoming the assailant of a young school-girl, on the evening of 7 February this year. 'I'm delighted to have proven that not only is *Shorinji Kempo* (a martial arts' tradition) highly effective in fighting for justice, but also that so many people practice regardless of nationality or race.' Tony discovered *Shorinji Kempo* while in the UK and joined the British

HE Dr Andrew Hall ▼



Mike Etiang ▼



▼ Tony Kehoe (right)



▲ Barbara Stuart-Bargione



▲ HE Dr François Barras



“With the knowledge gained from SOAS, I hope in some way to make the world a better place.”

Adwoa Tsema Ayeh

(BA Economics and Politics, 1999)

(cont.)

Federation. Later, he majored in Japanese at London University, and also studied at Kyoto University. He lives with his Japanese wife in Kawasaki and has worked as an interpreter at international events. Tony is pictured practising Shorinji Kempo. Elite@gol.com

Ara Sanjian (PhD student at SOAS from October 1991 to September 1994.) I received my PhD in the modern history of the Middle East in March 1996. After teaching history at Haigazian University, Beirut from February 1995 to December 2005, I have just started working as an Associate Professor of Armenian and Middle Eastern History at the University of Michigan, Dearborn and as Associate Director of the university's Armenian Research Center from January 2006.
arasan@umd.umich.edu

Saysavanh Sith-Ratanavong (MA Area Studies Southeast Asia, 1995)
'Worked in Japan and New Zealand as an EFL teacher. Now at Brunel University working on the alumni website and database. Three year old son keeps my wife and I on our toes.' sithratanavong@yahoo.co.uk

Louisa Dorji (née Dureau) (MA Economics in International Politics of Asia, 1996) and her husband arrange for any kind of travel to Bhutan, from cultural tours to treks and filming: www.bhutanvisit.com; info@bhutanvisit.com

Adwoa Tsema Ayeh (BA Economics and Politics, 1999)

I left SOAS in 1999 having secured a 2:1 in economics and politics. Afterwards I had the option of working for two international companies, either in asset management or global payments. I chose the latter. This job was one which was high-powered, involving transfers of billions of pounds sterling on a daily basis. However after two months I resigned due to racism.

Afterwards I temped with Office Angels and Select Appointments. In 2001 I secured a position at the Association of Travel Agents (ABTA) in London. My job title there was Financial Liaison Assistant.

I am currently studying for the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants. I need do only two more papers to qualify as an accountant.

SOAS taught me to be open-minded and not judge people based on their colour, creed, religion, sexual orientation or for any socio-political reason. Also, as a Baptist Christian I subscribe to the view that God made us all equal and so we therefore should treat each other with dignity. SOAS will be in my heart until I die because of its wonderfully accepting environment.

I end by saying that 'Knowledge is power', as all SOAS students and alumni know. With the knowledge gained from SOAS I hope in some way to make the world a better place, not to use my talents merely for self-glorification by securing a job in investment banking, taking no notice of the poor and underprivileged.
adwoa_ayeh@yahoo.co.uk

Rouna Ali (BA Social Anthropology, 1997-2000) our Alumni Informal Contact in Wales is planning a sponsored Mongolian Horse Trek, for Action Aid, in summer 2007. 'I am the daughter of someone who was orphaned at the age of five in what was then known as East Pakistan – now Bangladesh. However far my family may have come since that time, by living in the UK, we have never forgotten our beginnings in Bangladesh. This is why I am now in a position where I really want to, and can actively, do something for the benefit of other orphans throughout the world.' For further details: www.justgiving.com/rounainmongolia2007

James Waterson (History of Art and Archaeology, and History, 1996-2000) now divides his time between London and Tuscany whilst trying to make ends meet. jessjimw@yahoo.com
James's article on Shanghai, where he lived for four years, is available from alumni@soas.ac.uk

Darlisa Crawford (International Studies and Diplomacy, 2000) is founder and CEO of poshAir, Inc, which launched 'its first breakthrough product, a new sleeping bag that updates the travel blanket for the 21st century'. www.poshair.com

Rosa Bellino (MA Japanese Religions, 1999-2001) 'There are around 6 million carers in the UK – an invisible group of people who become invisible to society and even themselves as they care for someone else. You



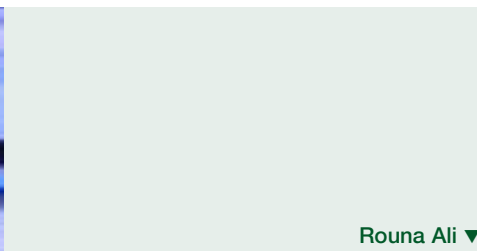
▲ Ara Sanjian



Saysavanh Sith-Ratanavong ▼



▲ Adwoa Tsema Ayeh



Rouna Ali ▼



▲ The view from our bedroom window.
© Rosa Bellino





see it is not necessary to go to Africa for your gap year to help someone...' writes Rosa Bellino, an artist, who has been caring for her elderly mother, who suffers from Alzheimers. Rosa was one of a handful of people interviewed by Tony Robinson, actor and comedian, in his documentary, *Me and My Mum*, a very personal look at the plight of the elderly in the UK, shown on 27 March 2006 on Channel 4. bellino@freenetname.co.uk

Mrs Helen Hacking (MA Indian Art and Archaeology, 2003) wrote: What a delightful photograph on the cover of the latest issue of the *Alumni Magazine* (no. 28, 2005) of the Hua family shawm-and-percussion village band playing their instruments in the SOAS precinct. I wonder if any of them realised that the beautiful trees under which they are playing are, in fact, *fraxinus chinensis* or the "Chinese Ash", which were brought to this country in 1891. I was able to identify them when I was studying at SOAS in 2001-3. Although with my husband I have travelled extensively in both SE Asia and the Indian Sub-Continent, it was love of the latter and its art and architecture that drew me to the course on Indian Art and Archaeology at SOAS, following my studies in Art History and World Religions for a BA Honours degree with the Open University. As a mature student, and a volunteer worker for the Friends of the Ashmolean Museum in Oxford, my studies at SOAS have increased my appreciation and knowledge of the artefacts that surround me in the museum. helenhac@tenter.demon.co.uk

Lucy Polson (MSc Development Studies, 2003). Shortly before finishing at SOAS, I was accepted onto a 6 month internship scheme with a small NGO called SOS Sahel that works with pastoralists and farmers in the semi-arid belt of Africa. It specialises in natural resource management – helping rural communities to better manage the dryland forests, grazing pasture and water sources that they depend upon for survival – and is founded upon the principles of community management and Africa-led development. What began for me as a purely administrative post quickly became a permanent position with responsibility for fundraising and communications as well as office management. SOS Sahel was going through significant change as its overseas offices were becoming independent African NGOs. I was lucky to keep my job through a round of redundancies, and I relocated with SOS Sahel to Oxford in 2004 as the only full-time staff member. Being in a small NGO has given me significant exposure to our work on the ground via field visits, as well as broad experience of a range of the charity's activities. I am soon to become Programme Officer, a position that I hope will use the analytical skills I gained at SOAS, as well as practical knowledge from my last three years of work at SOS Sahel. lucyp@sahel.org.uk

Deborah Dunham (MA in Islamic Art and Archaeology, 2005) in *Kabul overlooking Baghe Babur - the 500 year old burial garden of the first Mughal emperor Babur*. Deborah's research at SOAS focused on the development of Mughal gardens and their Timurid origins. Her thesis, *The Emperor's New Close: Reconstructing Babur's Burial Garden in Kabul*, is the basis for Deborah's current project for the Aga Khan Trust for Culture (AKTC) to plan, develop, and open a visitor centre for Baghe Babur in 2007. 'Babur was such an amazing character. His memoir, the *Baburnama*, first led me to discover our shared interest gardening, albeit 500 years apart! It has been such a privilege to see my research come to life as the talented AKTC team complete the renovation of Baghe Babur. This perch up on the mountain side provides a sweeping view of all 26 acres.' Deborah, an international project management consultant (with both corporate clients and NGOs), also leads study tours in Uzbekistan for the Association for Cultural Exchange and has most recently contributed to *Afghanistan: A Companion and Guide* (Odyssey 2005) and www.plantcultures.org.uk, the Kew Garden website on historic gardens. She is also working on "Crossing Continents: Connecting Communities" a Royal Geographical Society project dealing with historic photos of Afghanistan. Her email is: gardens@deborahdunham.net

Mrs Helen Hacking ▼



▲ Hua family shawm-and-percussion village band

Lucy Polson ▼



▲ Deborah Dunham



Alumni publications

FICTION

in a strange land (Pymmes' Publications, 2005) a novel by **Mary Bolster** (MA South East Asian Studies, 1999-2001) is set on the Thai-Burmese border, home to thousands of refugees from Burma. Baroness Caroline Cox of Queensbury writes (Foreword): 'I became gripped by the story and was drawn deeper into this powerful, moving and evocative account of the suffering of the Karenni people...'

Siofra O'Donovan (MA Indian Religions, 2003) *Pema and the Yak: A Journey into Exile* (Pilgrims, 2006)

POETRY

Raman Mundair (BA Hindi and History, 1991-5) is a writer and artist. She was born in India and has lived across the UK but felt most at home in the Shetland Islands. Currently Raman is a Scottish Arts Council Writing Fellow based in Glasgow. In 2005 she was awarded a mentorship with the Playwrights' Studio Scotland and in 2006 was runner up in the Penguin Decibel prize for short fiction. An established poet, she is the author of *Lovers, Liars, Conjurers and Thieves* (Peepal Tree Press) and *A Choreographer's Cartography*, to be published in Spring 2007.

Damian Croft (MA Anthropology, 1989) has published a book of Huntingdonshire short stories, *Ploughing Songs* (Elm Tree Press, 2006) ISBN: 0954982703

TRAVEL

The latest book by **Jason Elliot** (BA Persian Language, 1985-8) is *Mirrors of the Unseen: Journeys in Iran* (Picador, 2006)

CAMPAIGNING

John Gee (Arabic Language 1972-3; BA History 1974-7) and Elaine Ho are co-editors of *Dignity Overdue* (Select Books, Singapore, 2006), a publication of the Transient Workers Count Too (TWC2) legally registered society that is concerned with the wellbeing of female and male transient workers in Singapore. www.twc2.org.sg

AFRICA

A book about linguist, literary and pan-African scholar (and SOAS alumnus): **Lorenzo Dow Turner: Father of Gullah Studies** (University of South Carolina Studies, 2006) by Dr Margaret Wade-Lewis. ISBN: 1570036284

Dr Lotte Hughes (MA Area Studies, Africa, 1986-8 p/t) *Moving the Maasai: A Colonial Misadventure* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2006)

Dr Hakeem Ibikunle Tijani (PhD History, 1994-8) *Nigeria's Urban History: Past and Present* (University Press of America, Lanham-Maryland, 2006) ISBN: 0-7618-34338

HISTORY

Dr George Lane (BA in History and Persian, 1994; MA in History, 1996; PhD in History, 2001) *Daily Life in the Mongol Empire* (Greenwood Publishing, 2006) and forthcoming in 2007-8 *Silk Roads and Steppe Empires*.

Dr Rosie Llewellyn-Jones (Urdu, 1969-73; PhD History, 1974-80) *Lucknow: City of Illusion* The Alkazi Collection of Photography. Edited by Ebrahim Alkazi and Rosie Llewellyn-Jones (Prestel, 2006)

Dr Robert Irwin (PhD History of the NME, 1967-72) *For Lust of Knowledge: The Orientalists and Their Enemies* (Allen Lane, 2006)

FORTHCOMING

Aidan Hartley (MA Area Studies, Africa, 1987-8) *Wild Life: Adventures on an African Farm* to be published by William Heinemann in July 2007

Picturing the Universe: Images of Heaven, Earth and Hell. Three SOAS alumni, **Lilla Russell-Smith** (PhD, 2001), **Meri Arichi** (PhD, 2002) and **Moya Carey** (PhD, 2001) will be teaching a series of three courses at the British Library in 2006-7, focusing on cosmological imagery from East Asia and the medieval Islamic World. These evening classes are organised by the Faculty of Continuing Education, Birkbeck, University of London, in conjunction with the British Library. www.bbk.ac.uk/about/programmes



HISTORY

Dr Delia Cortese (PhD Islamic Studies 1993) and **Dr Simonetta Calderini** (PhD Islamic Studies 1991) Senior Lecturers, at Middlesex University and Roehampton University, London, respectively, pictured at the launch of *Women and the Fatimids in the World of Islam* (Edinburgh University Press, 2006).

Alumni associations and contacts

CANADA:
Adrienne Fast
(in Orchha, India)



CANADA: VANCOUVER

Adrienne Fast (MA in Art History and Archaeology 1999-2000) studied Art History for her BA at the University of Victoria in Canada and for her MA at SOAS. She then spent five years living, working and travelling in the Czech Republic, the South Pacific, and the UK before returning to Canada where she now works at the Vancouver Art Gallery while dreaming of a PhD.
fasta_uk@yahoo.com

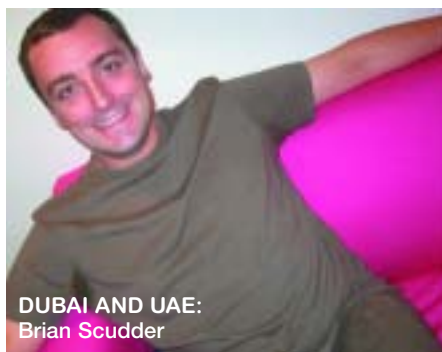
DUBAI AND UAE

Brian Scudder (BA Political Science and Religious Studies, 1988-92) I own a publishing and media consultancy company in Dubai. I've been here for 10 years, involved in media for most of that time with the exception of a couple of years in property as

communications' director for a real estate agent/developer. I've been (variously) Editor of *Time Out Dubai*, Deputy Editor on *Gulf Business* and freelanced for everyone.
brian@switch.ae

GHANA

Congratulations to Femi Akande and family: 'my wife and I had a baby boy (actually she did!) on Monday 13 February 2006 at about 1.30pm, the naming ceremony is a week afterwards as usual. It was eventful being present at the birth – an amazing experience :) If anyone knows what prayers are needed for a girl would find it useful as this is the fourth boy – not that we are complaining too hard! Femi.akande@mywacms.org



DUBAI AND UAE:
Brian Scudder

INDIA

Nayantara Palchoudhuri is the first woman president of the 119 year old Bengal National Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BNCCI). She was interviewed on 7 April 2006 in *Business Line*, the *Financial Daily* for the Hindu group of publications.
Poppet@cal2.vsnl.net.in

ISRAEL

Guy Sharett (MA Southeast Asia Studies, 2001) is a journalist and linguist. During the last six years he was based in Southeast Asia, where he worked as Southeast Asia correspondent for TV10 (Israel) and translated from Bahasa Indonesia and Thai. He was also a media consultant for *Internews*, an international media NGO. In 2004 he wrote *Bangkok Inside Out* with his soul mate – another SOAS alumnus – Jakarta-based writer **Daniel Ziv**. The book, which is an urban lexicon, depicts the different layers of life in Bangkok and received superb reviews from the media. The Thai Ministry of Culture unofficially banned it in November 2005 because it described 'negative subjects such as fake goods, gambling, gay performances, touts and scams'. In 2006 Guy moved back to Israel, where he oversees media projects for a Tel Aviv TV company.
guysha@gmail.com



ISRAEL
Guy Sharett

New Look for SOAS Journals

The Bulletin of SOAS and *The China Quarterly* have been redesigned and the new look will be launched in 2007.

For further information, contact the Journals' office:

eg13@soas.ac.uk

Please get in touch with your news, profiles, photographs, events, publications and any other initiatives or items of interest for alumni.
Email: hb15@soas.ac.uk

SPAIN AND COLOMBIA

Hi, my name is **Javier Picó** (LLM 2003) and I am a Spanish lawyer who is currently living and working in Colombia. I studied for an LLM at SOAS, and in my opinion it has been the best time I have had at a university in my entire life. The academic level of the school is so good; the students are completely different compared to those who study in other colleges of the University of London; also I learned from other people's experiences and cultures; and my way of seeing the world changed 360 degrees.

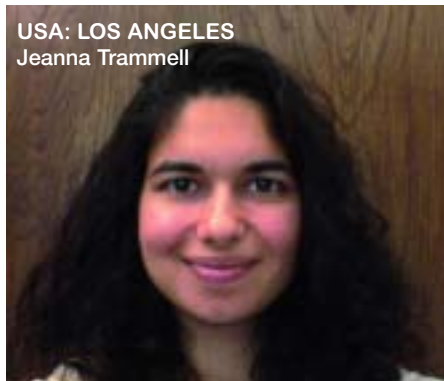
My job consists in working as a lawyer and legal adviser in a law firm for local and foreign companies in the fields of Commercial Law (local, common law and European), International Contracts, Foreign Investment, Financial Law, Project Finance and Corporate Law. Also I complement these activities working in a couple of universities as a lecturer in the subjects: Legal Aspects of Project Finance, Comparative Commercial Law and Financial Regulation. If any of you would like to contact me for information about SOAS, Spain, Colombia or Latin America in general, or to have a chat about arts, politics, music, London (I miss it), cooking... you are welcome.
xavier.pico@fipabogados.com

USA: NEW YORK

To join regular monthly gatherings for alumni, please contact: **Katrin Zimmermann**
exovonyc@earthlink.net

USA: LOS ANGELES

Jeanna Trammell



USA: LOS ANGELES

Jeanna Trammell (MA Comparative and International Legal Studies, 2005)

I volunteered as a marketing researcher with UniversalGiving, a non-profit organization that has a web-based service, which connects donors and volunteers with exceptional organizations all over the world. I currently volunteer with Cross Digital Divide as a computer teacher to underprivileged adults recovering from alcohol and drug abuse. Besides volunteering, I work as a women's advocate at the YWCA Glendale, California. As a women's advocate I work in an emergency crisis shelter where I provide counselling, case management, and advise women through a 24-hour domestic violence hotline. Alumni in the Los Angeles, California area, please get in touch.
tjeanna@gmail.com

TAIPEI, TAIWAN

Diccon Sandrey (BA Thai and Law, 2004)

After graduating I decided to move here to Taiwan to learn Chinese, on the recommendation of a SOAS classmate, and found myself instantly at home. I have been teaching English up until now, but in September I will be starting a Masters in Law at the National Taiwan University in Taipei. There seem to me to be a great deal of undiscovered opportunities in Taiwan, and since I shall be here for at least the next two years, I look forward to discovering them!
dicconsandrey@gmail.com



In memoriam

The School regrets to inform you of the death of:

Martin Adler (BA Social Anthropology, 1978-81; Linguistics Occasional student, 1982-3), photo-journalist and TV cameraman, who was shot dead on 23 June 2006, while covering a peace rally in Mogadishu.

Emeritus Professor Walid Arafat (Arabic and Islamic Studies, PhD student and former member of staff) on 18 August 2006.

Dr Albert Adu Boahen (PhD History) historian and activist, May 1932 - May 2006.

Professor Mary Boyce (PhD 1966-8, former member of staff) Scholar of ancient and medieval Iran and author of a multi-volume 'History of Zoroastrianism' (August 1920 - April 2006.)

Clem (Clemens) Capel (BA Chinese, 1980). Diplomat at the ministry of foreign affairs of the Netherlands. (3 November 1954 - 14 April 2006.)

Indrajit Chatterjee (MA History, 1995-6) on 19 May 2005.

Mark Gilmour (Law, 1988-91) in Hong Kong in October 2005.

Professor B W (Dick) Hodder, Professor of Geography at SOAS, 1971-1983, in September 2006.

Professor Sir Cyril Philips Director of the School, 1957-76 'Historian who took SOAS into the modern world' (*The Guardian*). (December 1912- 29 December 2005).

Alan Senitt (MA International Studies and Diplomacy, 2006) former chairman of the Union of Jewish Students (UJS), political campaigner 'tipped for a glittering career' murdered aged 27 years old, in Washington DC.

Professor Denis Twitchett (Chinese, 1947, former member of staff) Gordon Wu Professor of Chinese Studies, Princeton University. (September 1925 - 24 February 2006.)

Lev Weinstock (MA Social Anthropology of Development, 1995-7) on 28 April 2006 at home in Albuquerque, New Mexico, USA. www.levweinstock.net

Dr Rosemarie Said Zahlan (PhD History NME, 1966-8) Historian of the Gulf States. (August 1937 - 10 May 2006.)