A NOTE FROM CARLA LINEBACK
DIRECTOR OF ALUMNI ENGAGEMENT

I want to take a moment to celebrate the rich history of this organization and our long ties with the Peace Corps. When asked to become the first director of the Peace Corps, Sargent Shriver, an alumnus and group leader for The Experiment in International Living, called on The Experiment to conduct orientation and training for outbound Peace Corps volunteers. These activities led to the establishment of an academic institution—SIT—in 1964. SIT and The Experiment have always excelled at preparing people to study, live, and work abroad—whether at the high school, undergraduate, or graduate level. We regularly hear from employers that SIT alumni rise to the top of the resume pile.

And last fall, the U.S. Department of State recognized SIT with an award as the top-producing institution in the country for the State Department’s prestigious English-Language Fellow program. Read more here.

Last fall, the alumni office received a few visitors. Bruno Roesli was an International Student of English (ISE) here in Vermont in 1976. We chatted about his time on campus and he shared memories of his U.S. colleagues. Later, we hosted a group of Returned Peace Corps Volunteers from the Korea 12 group. They chose to celebrate their 50-year reunion by returning to Vermont, the site of their training.

Have you heard about SIT’s 2020 slate of graduate programs? I encourage you to take a look at graduate.sit.edu and read about the impressive array of Global and Low-Residency MA programs.

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DIRECTOR OF ALUMNI ENGAGEMENT

ALUMNI NEWS

Regina Barrett, PIM 52 1996, has founded Casa de Paz SLV in Crestone, Colorado. The center’s mission is to provide holistic trauma support for asylum seekers and new immigrants at the Texas-Mexico border. Gina is also an author and yoga therapist.

Ron Bradley, MAT 2 1971, is an English Language Specialist with the U.S. State Department and president of Global TEFL. Ron has three children, six grandchildren, and two great grandchildren.

Loren Lee Chiesi, MAT43 TESOL 2012, was selected as an English Language Fellow with the U.S. State Department in Naypyitaw, Myanmar. She is one of 200 U.S. citizens selected for this year’s program. Loren has been teaching abroad since she joined the Peace Corps prior to studying at SIT.

Emily Davis, PIM 70 Management 2012, has been in Asia for nearly 10 years. First, as chief of staff at China’s first person-to-person microfinance lending platform for women micro-entrepreneurs, and then working on China-Africa foreign aid policy at the United Nations in China. Emily is now a policy specialist in the Environmental Development Programme, where she advocates for inclusive policies that combat economic inequality and climate change in the Asia-Pacific region. Prior to leaving SIT with a PIM Management/Sustainable Development concentration, Emily worked in Kenya, China, and Costa Rica.

Pauline “Polly” Dolan, SIT Study Abroad Kenya 1987 and PIM49 1992, returned to the U.S. after living and working alongside the people of eastern and southern Africa since 1996. After working in community development and environmental conservation in Uganda and Tanzania for CARE, Polly became an independent consultant with a focus in the areas of health, education, and vulnerable children. In 2008, she founded Secondary Education for Girls’ Advancement (SEGA) in Morogoro, Tanzania. SEGA serves young women who are at risk of becoming involved in exploitative forms of child labor. The program includes education for 270 girls per year; a scholarship program for higher education; and a program where SEGA graduates mentor 400 girls each week. Learn more at nurturingmindsinafrica.org. She lives with her husband John and daughter, Martha.

James V. Fenelon, ICT22 and MAT15, has been a California resident for the past 20 years but frequently visits the SIT campus in Vermont. He is a professor of sociology and director of the Center for Indigenous Peoples Studies at California State University, San Bernardino.

Diane (Fuchs) Fulton, ICT23 1978, became a professor in business after finishing her SIT internship with CARE. She has just retired from a 45-year career teaching math and business and now focuses on writing children’s books.

Nadeem Ghazi, CONTACT 2013, is founder and director of World Learning Educational Society and founding member of Education for Global Peace in Pakistan. Recently, xA Nadeem has been organizing events for under-resourced communities facing a typhoid epidemic and high crime rates in Karachi.

Ilse Houle, MAT25 ESOL 1996, is in the Peace Corps in Hidalgo, Mexico. She co-teaches at the Instituto Tecnológico Superior de Hidalgo.

Amy Jersild, PIM54 Intercultural Management 1998, is pursuing a PhD at Western Michigan University and continues to evaluate United Nations programming.

Chelsea Johnson, PIM76 International Education 2019, converted the framework of her capstone paper into a 1,200-word article that was published by Diversity Abroad in their latest Global Impact Exchange publication.

Stephen Sadlier, MAT31 ESOL 2001, Experiment Group Leader Spain 2000, and CONTACT 2006, is the 2019 winner of the Go Back, Give Back award with English Language Fellowship. He will train and support local scholars at international conferences and provide in-service seminars for professional language teachers with the Azerbaijan State Examination Center. In 2012, he earned a doctorate in Language, Literacy, and Culture from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. Stephen was also a Fulbright Core U.S. scholar to Chile in 2013-14 with the U.S. State Department.

Dov Stucker, SIT Madagascar 1996 and PIM61 Intercultural Leadership 2003, is co-founder and lead teacher at the Burlington City & Lake Semester program. The program aims to empower youth through real-world learning experiences in and around the city of Burlington, Vermont. Dov was a Community-Based Learning Fellow in Burlington’s Partnership for Change. Before returning to the classroom, he worked for nine years coordinating community-based and service-learning projects in Burlington and the French West Indies.

Lauren Wright, Sustainable Development 2014, recently joined the Illinois Partners for Human Services as executive director. Illinois Partners is a coalition of more than 800 human services organizations in every legislative district in Illinois that provide vital services in areas such as mental health, disability rights, and immigration services. In addition to her MA in Sustainable Development from SIT, Lauren holds a Master of International Policy and Practice from George Washington University.

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CRITICAL GLOBAL ISSUES RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM

Registration is open for SIT’s first annual Critical Global Issues Symposium, May 14-16, 2020, in Brattleboro, Vermont. SIT programs are developed around a framework of the most critical global issues of our time—challenges that transcend borders to touch every human on the planet. In this first annual CGI Symposium, we will examine Identity and Human Resilience. You’re invited to join us on SIT’s Vermont campus for an examination of cutting-edge research by students, alumni, and faculty from SIT and our partner organizations. Through discussions around this work, we seek to develop a platform for meaningful dialogue that will help to advance these critical conversations. Find out more and register at www.sitcgsymposium.org.

JORDAN AND ISRAEL FOR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS

World Learning is launching its inaugural Global Leadership Exchange (GLEX) program in June of 2020. This exciting opportunity is available to all alumni and friends of World Learning. The program, designed by and for alumni will provide participants the opportunity to engage with World Learning’s mission, connect with our partners and projects overseas, and most importantly share the experience with like-minded community focused leaders.

The program will run June 16-25, 2020. There is a limit of 20 participants and the registration deadline is March 6, 2020.

For details about GLEX and this summer’s program, visit www.worldlearning.org/GLEX.

DO YOU HAVE AN INTERESTING UPDATE TO SHARE WITH YOUR FELLOW SIT ALUMNI? SEND NEWS AND UPDATES TO ALUMNI@SIT.EDU.

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