

A NOTE FROM CARLA LINEBACK

DIRECTOR OF ALUMNI ENGAGEMENT



SIT and IHP alumni are doing some inspiring research around the world that I'm delighted to share with you in this newsletter. The news you send in is inspiring; I hope that I've been able to include something about everyone who has been in touch! As you will see in the upcoming events section, we will be hosting more alumni gatherings around the country this year, and I look forward to meeting some of you in my travels. Remember that invitations to gatherings are by email only, so please do reach out for more information or share your email at alumni@sit.edu.

Carla

Noam Yossefy, 2014 IHP Health, received her BA in public health from Skidmore College, and her MPH in health policy from the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health. Her graduate studies focused on health policy and political strategy, behavioral health change interventions, and substance use disorder prevention, specifically pertaining to opioid and e-cigarette use among at-risk youth. She is a health care analyst at the Massachusetts Attorney General's Office.

Leah Everist, SIT Switzerland 2015, is associate advisor with the Behavioral Insights Team, a global firm for behavioral economics advising and research, based out of Wellington, New Zealand. Before that, she was living in Nepal on a Luce fellowship, leading disaster risk management and emergency planning initiatives at PHASE Nepal. Originally from North Carolina, Leah holds a public health degree with a concentration in health policy and management from the University of North Carolina. She also worked on a Doctors Without Borders team that directed operations in Chad, South Sudan, and Ethiopia. Her research focus areas include sustainable rebuilding and community empowerment processes in the aftermath of Hurricane Maria in Puerto Rico, vaccine hesitancy in Pakistan and Afghanistan, and community-managed water systems in Northern Ghana.

Jacob Krauss, SIT Australia 2015 and SIT Ecuador 2016, published a paper on lemur diets and behavior in *Lemur*

ALUMNI NEWS

Pauline "Polly" Dolan, SIT Kenya 1987 and SIT Graduate Institute 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 empowers 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.



Hannah Burr, SIT Nepal 1993, lives in Ann Arbor, Mich., with her husband Guy, and still remembers some of her Tibetan language. Her time with SIT

News, the IUCN primate specialist group's Madagascar journal. Jake also produced his first short film, *Baile de Los Tunkis*. He went on to work at the National Environmental Education Foundation and wrote about environmental issues for the EPA. Jake now teaches outdoor education in Los Angeles.

Brittany Bondi and **Madeline Lee**, SIT Mongolia 2017, are back in Mongolia to continue their research with Fulbright Research fellowship.



Theresa Dinh, SIT Vietnam 2017, is teaching third- through sixth-grade English and art at Hua Ren Elementary School in Ji-An Township in Taiwan. She is taking Chinese classes at Tzu Chi Buddhist University and hopes to visit Vietnam after her Fulbright program.



was very influential, opening her to a 20-year meditation practice and significantly shifting her perspective on the world and herself in it. She's had close Tibetan friends in the Boston area for about 20 years, and returned to visit her Dharamsala host family in 2001. She recently published her third artist's book, *Elements: A Love Letter to All Things Everywhere*, and continues to write books, craft contemporary art exhibitions, collaborate in workshops and give talks. www.hannahburr.com/

Dov Stucker, SIT Madagascar 1996 and SIT Grad 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.

Shannon Service, IHP Global Ecology 1998 and IHP Global Cities Fellow 2008, directed, *Ghost Fleet*, an award-winning documentary about Thai activists who track down victims of forced labor in the fishing industry and reunite them with their families, sometimes decades later.

Paula Escott, SIT Argentina 2018, was awarded a Fulbright Research grant and will return to Argentina to study public health in urban environments.

Mary Kelly McHugh, SIT Argentina 2018, just had her ISP paper, "Coordination and support in Mendoza's Community Health Worker Program: From Theory to Practice" published.

Maclane Speer, SIT India 2018, published a study on the outbreak of Zika virus in Rajasthan, along with several public health experts. After he graduates, Maclane plans to attend a post-baccalaureate premedical program to prepare him for medical school. He hopes to become a licensed physician and go on to leadership positions in global health organizations or the government.

Takhmina Nasimova, SIT Switzerland 2019, is back in Geneva as an independent consultant in governance and development and working on a variety of projects with various NGOs. Takhmina assisted with a Peacepreneurs Panel during Geneva peace week and is pictured here with the founders of the Geneva Academy for Peace.



Alexandra Blogier, SIT South Africa 2005 and Nicaragua 2006, just published her first book, *The Last Girl on Earth*. Alexandra earned a degree from University of Maryland in history and now lives and works in Brooklyn, NY.

Nathaniel Parish Flannery, IHP Cities 2005 and SIT Chile 2006, published a book, *Searching for Modern Mexico*, which looks at Mexico's political dynamic through the framework of coffee, mezcal, avocados, beer, and tacos. Nathaniel says both SIT programs played an integral role in learning how to do field work that was complementary to his academia. He earned his master's in international affairs from Columbia University.

Maria Lis Baiocchi, SIT Croatia 2006, was awarded the 2019 Sylvia Forman Prize for her graduate paper, "The Bargaining Power of Love: Access to Rights, Affective Capital, and the Political Economy of Feelings in Paid Domestic Work in Buenos Aires, Argentina."

Annika Erickson - Pearson, SIT Switzerland 2013, is back in Geneva working as the communications coordinator for the Geneva Peacebuilding Platform and finishing her master's degree in development studies at the Graduate Institute in Geneva. She writes, "SIT was absolutely formative and pivotal in the story of my life and career."

Savannah Kelly, SIT Argentina 2019, conducted research on the sociopolitical impact of the border dispute between Guatemala and Belize's indigenous communities. Her goal is to shed light on the importance of multicultural reforms and ethnic politics in countries that have indigenous communities. Savannah hopes to utilize her research and study abroad experiences to focus her senior thesis at Hamilton College on the intersection of identity politics and how they factor into the legislative decisions of Latin American countries.

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Help others experience the magic of SIT. Visit sit.edu/give

UPCOMING EVENTS

We're organizing a number of alumni gatherings in the coming months. Invitations to gatherings are sent by email, so make sure we have your correct email address! You may also register on the alumni community and directory at connect.sit.edu.

February 20 - Boston

February 26 - Washington, DC

March 25 - Seattle

March 26 - San Francisco or Oakland

April 2 - Denver
(coinciding with the TESOL 2020 Convention)

April 21 - Chicago

April 22 - Minneapolis

May 27 - St. Louis
(Coinciding with the NAFSA Conference)

JORDAN AND ISRAEL FOR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS

World Learning is launching its inaugural Global Leadership Exchange (GLEx) program in June 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.

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.sitcgisymposium.org.

OPPORTUNITIES & OTHER NEWS

The [Alice Rowan Swanson Fellowship](#) supports alumni wishing to return to the country where they studied to pursue development projects that benefit human rights in that region. Applications are accepted twice annually, with deadlines each year on March 1 and October 1.

Be sure to visit the [employment](#) page on our website for opportunities that may be of interest to you. In particular, SIT Study Abroad and IHP alumni may be interested in travelling with an IHP group as a Trustee's Fellow. Opportunities are posted on SIT's employment webpage: www.worldlearninginc.org/get-involved/work-with-us/

The [Experiment in International Living](#) provides immersive study abroad summer programs for high school students. Scholarships are available to educators and family members of alumni. Visit experiment.org/apply/scholarships.

Alumni receive an automatic \$2,000 discount for SIT Graduate Institute. Interested in learning more? Visit graduate.sit.edu or contact admissions@sit.edu.

ABOUT WORLD LEARNING INC.



World Learning Inc., the nonprofit parent organization of School for International Training, offers high school, undergraduate, graduate, and professional programs. World Learning Inc.'s summer programs (through The Experiment in International Living) help high school students experience another culture abroad. SIT Study Abroad offers semester- and summer-long undergraduate programs that address critical global issues on all seven continents. SIT Graduate Institute offers graduate degrees in low-residency and global formats. World Learning is working to create a more peaceful and just world through education, sustainable development, and exchange. Founded in 1932 as The Experiment in International Living, the organization that has become World Learning Inc. was inspired by Dr. Donald Watt's simple idea to improve understanding across cultures and nations by sending U.S. students abroad to expand their worldviews.



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HAVE NEWS TO SHARE?

Send news about a new job, a publication, an accomplishment, or just a general update to alumni@sit.edu.

Help save resources. Receive this newsletter by email. Write to alumni@sit.edu to add your address to our email list.

LET'S BE SOCIAL!



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Alumni Newsletter
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