A NOTE FROM CARLA LINEBACK
Director of Alumni Engagement

I hope this note finds you and your family safe and well. The past six months have been full of uncertainty, changes, surprises... you name it. For me, our founder’s motto, “Expect the Unexpected” has never hit home more than now, amidst the pandemic. As an organization rooted in global exchange, we have had to adapt to meet this challenge. I would like to share what we’ve been up to and bring you respite in the stories of your fellow alumni.

I’m delighted that many of you are using this time to reconnect online. To improve our sustainability, this newsletter is also moving online. Please email alumni@sit.edu to opt-in and send your own update!

ALUMNI NEWS
Alumni listed by program year

Stephen Page, World Issues Program (WIP) 1978, and his wife Maureen have relocated to Weston, VT after 35 years in the Boston area. According to Stephen, “Life is very good when you can ski mid-week. I hope any and all old friends and classmates will give us a call and stop by if you are in the area. Vermont is every bit as beautiful now as it was back in the days of WIP 57.”

Brian “Jamie” Fouss, PIM 36 1985, has been a Foreign Service officer since 2002 and was the Consul General in Wuhan, China, this past winter when the pandemic started. He has just finished his assignment and returned to Washington, DC—after heading up the U.S. Consulate evacuation. He plans to retire in 2021, after a career that has also included time with the Philippine Refugee Processing Center, Peace Corps, and Berlitz/Training Management Corporation.

Ryuko Kubota, MAT 14 TESOL 1987, a professor at the University of British Columbia, was recognized as the American Association for Applied Linguistics this spring for her scholarship and service. She’s shared, “I am increasingly interested in writing affordable, approachable books, and recently received a grant to do short videos to raise awareness of global varieties of English.”

Lizbeth Cullity, PIM 43 International Administration 1988, has held several UN roles and, in January, she was appointed the deputy special representative and deputy head of the UN Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic.

Fellina Nwadike, CONTACT 2000, is now a professor at Admiralty University of Nigeria and has served as a Fulbright Senior Scholars Program Specialist, conducting training in Alternative Dispute Resolution at Usman Danfodiyo University’s Center for Peace Studies in Sokoto, Nigeria. Previously, she was an associate professor at Coppin State University in Maryland and wrote two books—a speech communications workbook and an intercultural communications and diversity textbook.

John Rucynski Jr, MAT 32 TESOL 2000, Experiment Group Leader Japan 2004, is a professor at Okayama University in Japan and co-editor of The Humor Barrier: Humor Competency Training in English Language Teaching, which was published in February. Previously, he published New Ways in Teaching with Humor.

Rick Wayman, PIM 63 Intercultural Service, Leadership, and Management 2003, is the president and CEO of the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation, which was a partner organization of the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons. The campaign collectively received the 2017 Nobel Peace Prize for achieving the UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. Rick’s writings on sustainable policies and nuclear disarmament appear in The New York Times, Los Angeles Times, and The Washington Post.

Tyrel Nelson, TESOL 2007, volunteered with Xperitas this winter, a nonprofit educational organization dedicated to promoting global citizenship, building latrines for preschoolers in Chichuayco, Mexico. His article about the experience was published in Travel Magazine in February.

Josh Davis, PIM 68 Sustainable Development 2008, is the executive director of Groundworks Collaborative. As COVID-19 appeared in Vermont, the organization worked with State of Vermont partners to establish and enact guidance that helped everyone that was without housing, or who was precariously housed access local motel rooms. A vision that Groundworks has held for the community—that everyone has their basic needs met with dignity—has become a reality during this crisis. Several other SIT alumni are also involved with Groundworks.

Elizabeth “Libby” Bennett, PIM 70 Intercultural Service, Leadership, and Management 2010, serves as director of development and communications, and Beth Kiendl, MAT 17 1986, serves on the board.

Alissa (Nagel) Collins, PIM 71 Intercultural Service, Leadership, and Management 2011 and Neal Collins, PIM 71 Sustainable Development 2011, are co-founders of Latitude, a regenerative-focused real estate sales, consulting, and development firm, headquartered out of the Pacific Northwest—with global aspirations. Their company helps people live in more mindful and resilient ways and uses the built environment as a catalyst for positive change.

Kirstie Kwarteng, PIM 70 Intercultural Service, Leadership, and Management 2011, is pursuing her PhD at the University of London’s Department of Development Studies. She is also the founder of The Nana Project (thenanaproject.org), a digital platform that preserves firsthand accounts of Ghana’s history, and was named one of Ghana’s Top 30 Under 30 in 2016.

Caítan (Parker) Rivera, MAT 44 TESOL 2012, was selected by the U.S. Department of State as an English Language Specialist in May. Her four-month assignment will focus on virtually supporting the Ecuador Habla Inglés Access Teacher Training Program, facilitated by The Experiment in International Living Ecuador.

Rehema Z. Namukose, PIM 75 Sustainable Development DC 2015, founded Reignite Africa (reigniteafrica.org), a non-profit that supports young people transitioning from school to work in Uganda—helping them learn soft and practical skills, get good jobs, and learn leadership and advocacy skills to tackle social issues in their communities.

A MESSAGE FROM DR. SOPHIA HOWLETT
President, School for International Training

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LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Interested in being a leader with The Experiment or our other Youth Exchange Programs for summer 2021? Leaders work both in the U.S. and abroad with students from around the world. If you would like to receive more information and a notification when the application is open, email groupleaders@worldlearning.org.

The Experiment in International Living provides immersive summer programs abroad and online for high school students. Visit experiment.org.

ONLINE LANGUAGE COURSES

SIT Study Abroad provides academically rich undergraduate semester and summer programs, most with field research or internships, and International Honors Program comparative study. SIT Study Abroad is also offering new online language courses, which are open to high school, undergraduate, and graduate students, and adult learners. Visit studyabroad.sit.edu.

NEW! DOCTORATE PROGRAM (EdD)

SIT’s new hybrid Doctorate in Global Education (EdD) combines rigorous online coursework with short residencies in Vermont to fit the needs of part- and full-time professionals seeking to rapidly accelerate their career, while tackling highly relevant issues in global education, both locally and abroad. Drawing from SIT’s in-depth, reflective practice and intensive research training, our doctorate gives you the tools you need to excel in an increasingly diverse, competitive, and interdisciplinary world. Apply by November 1, 2020. graduate.sit.edu

Scholarships may be available to Experiment or SIT alumni and their family members.

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 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.

DO YOU HAVE AN INTERESTING UPDATE to share with your fellow SIT alumni? Send news and updates to alumni@sit.edu.

World Learning’s Global Programs work to create a more peaceful and just world through education, sustainable development, and exchange. Our programs advance leadership in more than 150 countries. Visit worldlearning.org.

HAVE NEWS TO SHARE?

Send news of a new job, publication, or other accomplishment. Update your contact information. Did you know if you refer a student to SIT and they list your name in their application, SIT will waive the applicant’s $50 application fee. Don’t miss out! Sign up at alumni@sit.edu.

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