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 year of participation

Douglas Raybeck, SIT Germany 1962, is now professor emeritus at Hamilton College and has spent fifty years studying Kelantan, Malaysia, as an anthropologist. The second edition of his book, Mud Dog: Englishmen, and the Errant Anthropologist: Fieldwork in Malaysia, was published in July.

Judith Helfand, IHP 1984, had her short film, "Love and Stuff," listed in The New York Times’ “Ten Films to Watch with Mom” this Mother’s Day. Their documentary explored the changes of letting go of her mother’s belongings after her mother’s passing.

Jana Lipman, SIT Vietnam 1994, a professor at Tulane University, says her SIT semester was one of the most formative experiences in her life and has driven her research for her books, which include In Camps: Vietnamese Refugees, Asylum Seekers, and Repatriates and Ship of Fate: Memoir of a Vietnamese Repatriate.

Faizun Kamal, SIT Kenya 1996, helps people transition from employee to entrepreneur, as CEO of The Franchise Pros, and was recognized by PhenomenalWoman.org for her noteworthy contributions to the business world and society.

Lauren LoGiudice, SIT Tanzania 2000, had lost touch with her host family, but when she visited Mount Kenya and the Ngorongoro Crater years later, she sought them out. After letting her memories guide her to the home of the host family, they were surprised and thrilled to see her. They invited her to come back to form a full circle for me, an anniversary for me to remember the first time I left the country and how much I’ve grown as a global citizen since then.”

Janessa Goldberg, SIT Uganda 2005, was a first-time U.S. Democratic candidate this year and is an LGBTQ+ human rights activist and ex-Marine captain. She says her SIT experience taught her, “we can all have a role just in changing the country, but in changing the world.”

Jillian LaBranche, SIT Uganda 2013, is a PhD student in sociology at the University of Minnesota, researching how societies that have experienced political violence teach that experience to the next generation, specifically in Sierra Leone and Rwanda.

Henry Chen, SIT South Africa 2016, a publishing associate at the American Political Science Association in Washington, DC. After returning to South Africa—on grants from both Northwestern and Fulbright—he co-published an article on memory and masculinity in the Journal of Southern African Studies, with SIT Academic Director Imraan Buccus, his SIT advisor Deevisia Bhana, and fellow academic Bronwynne Anderson.

Margaret Hurston, SIT Bolivia 2017, presented at the virtual 2020 Ecological Society of America Annual Meeting on forest loss and conservation efforts in Concepcion, Bolivia, and in Bolivia more broadly. She plans to present on this topic again at the virtual Student Conference for Conservation Science, in October.

Jennifer Lundt and Mary Grace Detmer, SIT Nepal 2017, received Fulbright Teaching Fellowships in Malaysia earlier this year and were randomly paired as roommates. Though the pandemic cut their experience short, they were able to see their academic director, Careemah Choong, while in-country and they thank SIT for a life-long friendship.

Aidan Fife, SIT Panama 2018, was working as a Youth Development Volunteer focused on improving educational and economic status of youth with the Peace Corps in Ancash, Peru when the pandemic hit.

Willa Serling, IHP Health and Community 2018, was named an Erasmus Mundus Scholar this spring. The award provides funding for a two-year European public health master’s degree. Her plans to present her senior anthropology thesis at Supranational Democracy Dialogue in Italy and to use her Venture Grant to look at “How Gentrification Affects Food Trends in New York City” were both postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Rowan Gossett, SIT Chile 2019, received a Fulbright English Teaching Award, which will take her to Argentina in March of 2021, where she also hopes to complete one of her last year’s projects, "Ships in the Night," which is a community engagement project in organizing and women’s rights advocacy.

Carla

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

This has been a difficult year for everyone, and we hope you and your families are well despite these trying circumstances. While 2020 has brought many challenges for SIT and World Learning, through its history this organization has been defined by its resilience in the face of the unknown and ability to adapt in times of change.

One example is the successful repatriation of 920 SIT and IHP students from their spring 2020 programs, which was a two-week, round-the-clock effort involving faculty and staff across the organization. In recognition of these efforts, GoAbroad presented SIT with its 2020 Innovation in Crisis Response Award.

In addition, this time has given us an opportunity to reimagine our program models and curricula for a digital space. In this way, we are providing a critical outlet for international education during this global crisis through programs like The Experiment Digital, World Learning’s U.S. Department of State-funded youth exchanges, and SIT’s new online programming, including virtual internships and language courses. These programs are going so well, that SIT plans to continue developing and offering online programs well into the future.

Despite the pandemic, we are also continuing some of our traditional programs, like SIT’s Global Master’s in Climate Change & Global Sustainability, which launched in Iceland in late August with eight full-time students. Five part-time, hybrid master’s programs also began this summer with healthy enrollment.

It would be very remiss of us not to acknowledge the pain caused by inequity and injustice that certain members of our student and alumni community are experiencing today. Let us be clear, Black Lives Matter and SIT and World Learning strongly support efforts to dismantle systems grounded in oppression that continue to harm people of color and others who are marginalized.

To ensure the entire organization is upholding our core values, especially social inclusion and justice, we have expanded our partnership with Diversity Abroad to create positive systemic change across SIT and World Learning.

It is now more vital than ever to continue building on our 88-year history of striving to create a more peaceful and just world. Learning from others, listening to different perspectives, and combating fear of the other is our greatest strength. We will get through this together and emerge stronger and more resilient on the other side.

Sincerely,

Dr. Sophia Howlett, President, School for International Training
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 is 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 Graduate Institute offers global, full-time and hybrid master’s degrees, certificates, and professional development programs. Visit graduate.sit.edu.

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.

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

WORLD LEARNING PROGRAMS
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.

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WORLD LEARNING INC.
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Sustainability is one of World Learning Inc.’s core values. To better live by it, we will be phasing out this print newsletter and moving exclusively online. To ensure you don’t miss out on future newsletters, please email alumni@sit.edu.

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.

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