



People

ISSUE 30 SPRING 2007

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Welcome to SOAS

People



SOAS Alumni Association in Japan (SAIJ) (above)

On 11 April SAIJ held a welcome reception for **Professor Paul Webley**, Director and Principal of SOAS, at ARISH, Nihon University after Professor Webley had an audience with **HH Prince Mikasa**, Honorary Chair of SAIJ. At the event the Director indicated the vision for the future of SOAS, including being one of the top 20 universities in the world. Fifteen SAIJ members attended and enjoyed their conversation as well as the meal provided by Professor Webley.

Kenta Kuribayashi (SAIJ Committee Chair)



SOAS New York Alumni Association

Above, L to R: **Marilena Hatoupis**, **Larry Hartsell**, **Jennifer Hegarty**, **Katie Walsh** (SOAS Development Officer-Alumni) and **Ed Polatschek**, members of the SOAS New York Alumni Association at one of their regular gatherings, which took place on 28 March 2007 at Tom and Jerry's, Elizabeth Street, near the corner of East Houston, New York.



Above: **SOAS Hong Kong Alumni Association** Committee Members with **Anja Funston**, International Officer, SOAS, on 9 February 2007 at an evening gathering at the Dublin Jack Pub in Hong Kong.



Dear Alumni,

As this issue suggests, our reach is now truly global! With the **SOAS Online Community** up and running since the end of February, we have been able to reach more alumni than ever, and you now have the flexibility to contact each other directly using online directories and discussion groups. Of course, the more people there are in the community and actively using the services, the more successful it will be. If you have not already done so, please visit www.soasalumni.org to register and use the site. With up to 1,000 of you from all over the world signed up already, this website is truly becoming a global community of alumni.

Our associations are also thriving thanks to the efforts and hard work of our overseas contacts. The Japanese Association welcomed new Director and Principal, Paul Webley, on his recent trip to Tokyo. The Hong Kong and Shanghai associations both held events with Anja Funston, Student Recruitment Officer, during her travels to China in February. Katie Walsh met members of the New York Association during a recent trip to the USA. To find out about events happening both at SOAS and around the globe, please visit the events calendar on the online community. If you are interested in becoming a more active member of the alumni association, or if you would be interested in helping to plan events in your country, please let us know by contacting Katie Walsh on Katie.walsh@soas.ac.uk

Exciting news for our office is that we have new team members joining us this month. Our new Development Manager, Major Gifts is **Abby Wilson**, currently at Shelter, and previously at CPRE and King's College. Our new Development Manager, Research is **Victoria Moss** who joins us from the London Business School. Development Events Manager, **Julide Tatlioglu**, has a wide variety of events management experience in the education and Arts sectors. Welcome to all three. We will be giving them an opportunity to talk about their work in upcoming e-newsletters and future editions of the *SOAS People*.

A brief reminder for alumni to take advantage of the special discounted offer for the *SOAS: A Celebration in Many Voices* publication. This beautiful book, which includes memories and anecdotes from SOAS alumni as well as specially commissioned articles and images, will be published in time for graduation, when the price goes up! For more information, please see the enclosed leaflet, and be sure to order your copy soon.

Things you can do to help: Register for the online community, contribute to the *SOAS People*, and attend events in your area! Most importantly, please keep in touch, and give us your ideas, suggestions, and comments. We look forward to continued conversations.

With best wishes from the Development and Alumni Affairs team,

Pamela K Barrett
Director of Development & Alumni Affairs

From left to right: **Steven Flynn**, **Shen-Ying Tung (Committee Chair)**, **Nick Zhang**, **Anja Funston**, SOAS International Officer and **Joan Wang**. Shen-Ying writes: The newly reformed **SOAS China Alumni Club** held their first networking event of the year on 30 January in **Shanghai, PRC**. The venue was the aptly named British Bulldog, a classic pub setting amidst high ceilings with original wooden beams and a roaring open fireplace. The event was open to all SOAS alumni with a special welcome to all graduates of UK universities working or studying in China. Anja Funston, SOAS's International Officer, attended and helped hand out 3 gift packs for the evening prize draw. In all over 43 people attended to catch up and join in the fun that went well past the 9pm official end. Our event surprised one SOAS alumnus in Shanghai on business when he found out the British Bull Dog was also hosting the alumni mixer. The world is very small for SOAS people! For future SOAS China Alumni Association events, contact: www.alumnichina.org/soas



Women at Work in the Yemen

On a project that promotes women's employment in the Republic of Yemen

People in Yemen firmly believe in destiny 'nasib' and as I approach my third year of living here I have come to justify Yemen as just that. What first drew me to it were some stunning pictures hung in Dr Trevor Marchand's office, my tutor for my MA thesis in Anthropology of Development at SOAS. I needed a case study to use against the huge generalizations found in Gender and Development discourse and apply it to a Middle Eastern context. The choice of Yemen was, admittedly, mostly based on gut feeling rather than reason, but it worked. Referring to resources from the 80s and 90s, the only ones available, I wrote my thesis on *Women's participation in the National Development of Yemen*.

One year after graduating, the gut feeling came back when opting for a three-month course in Arabic in Sana'a as a pretext to find work there. Since then I have been working as a consultant with the International Labour Organization (ILO) on a project promoting women's employment in Yemen. The project first started as an initiative to re-activate a Department of Women Workers in the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour. These departments were implemented across Yemen's ministries post Beijing [4th World Conference on Women] with the aim of supporting government-wide mainstreaming of a gender-equality perspective in all policy areas. Globally these departments receive little political commitment and often have no financial, technical or human resources to fulfil their mandate.

In the past, the first wave of "gender initiatives" in Yemen came as a blow to a country where gender roles are traditionally bound and the woman's role is strongly associated with the private sphere of the family. Previous mainstream, rushed initiatives for "women's empowerment" have led to what have now become legendary stories commonly told at



women gatherings in Yemen, of synchronized mosques reproaching activists for gender equity.

In the project, we are focusing on addressing a root challenge faced by women in Yemen, which is the negative stigma attached to women who work. Women in Yemen are the agricultural backbone, working up to 12 hours a day including caring for the household, the sick and the young in their community. Yet their work is unpaid and mostly conducted in their family's land. In the formal economy, women only represent 25% of the working population, mostly in administrative jobs, teaching and nursing (midwives), jobs that preferably do not put a strain on their role as nucleus of the family. In an effort to create a better infrastructure for women, we are working with the media in bringing about positive images of women workers, providing capacity building with institutions in addressing challenges faced by women at the workplace and bringing these challenges to policy level.

My experience so far has clearly shown me

that in this line of work pressure is put on how to measure the tangible changes that have been brought about by a project. This however steers away from complex dilemmas that are confronted on a daily basis in the field of women's empowerment; and in its implications for a specific country. This is particularly relevant in the context of Yemen, a country rich in cultural traditions and, within these traditions, existent structures for equity and justice. On one of my trips, I met with an employer to discuss the possibility of implementing a training programme on women's rights with workers in his establishment. The employer advised us that none of his workers would have the inclination to attend this programme without attaching meaning to it and suggested for us to integrate verses from the Qur'an that stress the positive role of women and work. This has so far been more effective than any other indicators I can think of.

Lara Uhlenhaut

(MA Social Anthropology of Development, 2003)

Above: Sana'a, Yemen, 2005; and front cover photograph, 2006 © Lara Uhlenhaut

"Women in Yemen are the agricultural backbone, working up to 12 hours a day"

Alumni Eyes on the world

Wartime Japanese Translator

"Do you want your book back?" asked Edward Allwright of Jack Sanders both of whom formerly served in the RAF - when the latter finally managed to track him down after a search across two continents and in archives dating back 60 years. The quest began when Jack received a request from a family in Japan, via an intermediary, to locate two RAF men, called Leeming and Allwright, who in 1946-7 served as Japanese linguists in the British Commonwealth Occupation Force.

Individuals such as Leeming, Allwright and Sanders had helped local Japanese children by giving them food from their Mess (canteen). There were rules against "fraternization", but these were not strictly enforced and in some cases giving food and helping the Japanese in other ways at that difficult time was actively encouraged by the military authorities. In any case Jack and his friends simply took the view that "they were hungry so we helped to feed them". One of the children, now grown up, wanted to get in touch with Leeming and Allwright to thank them for helping the family. By chance Jack remembers Douglas Leeming very well, as someone who became a good friend while they were in the RAF and remained so afterwards, acting as best man at his wedding but is, sadly, now dead. Jack Sanders who in 1945

had completed the six-month T - 10 wartime Japanese Translator course, funded by the Air Ministry, believed that Allwright had joined SOAS after him. A search in the School Archives confirmed that Edward Alan Allwright was enrolled from 21.7.1945-1.2.1946 on the Japanese character and phonetics (six-month course). Without a current home address, the only lead was his old school. Jack telephoned the Secretary, and was put in touch with the Old Boys' Association and a few telephone calls later the two former RAF colleagues were back in touch again. They reminisced about their time in Japan, and friends whom they had in common. There was banter about a book of Jack's, Chaucer's *Prologue*, which he had given to Edward and which Edward still had. As Jack was preparing to join a troopship for repatriation he found that he did not have enough room to pack all his books, which he had bought during his service abroad so he

gave some away to his friends, including Edward. Edward offered the book back to him.

Jack Sanders

(Occasional Student, Japanese, 1945)



▲ Jack Sanders and left (group)



▲ Stephen Durnford



▲ Theodore W Scull

Ancient Anatolia

Being strongly interested in languages, I found myself in 1963 doing a BA in Sanskrit at SOAS. However, the library's rich shelves let me indulge my wider interests, especially in ancient Anatolia, and I got only a lower second. With my degree classed as Classics/Mathematics I secured a post in marketing, leading over the next forty years to a career in management and IT consultancy in several industries. Deciphering and amending other peoples' computer programmes takes the same aptitudes as ancient texts, and private academic research has remained an active pursuit. My most recent publication, in 2006, was on Hittite.

Stephen Durnford

(BA Sanskrit, 1963)

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Travel Writing

In the year (1968) following my Masters, I travelled on the cheap to East, Central and South Africa. When the money ran out, I took teaching jobs in two New York City independent schools and added a second Masters (Education). After ten years, I turned to writing, mostly on travel and have had eight books published on such diverse subjects as New York City, public transport, hiking, cruise and personal ocean voyages. I married an Australian who is also in love with New York, so we are here to stay. Very recently, I re-established e-mail contact with David Hedges (PhD History, 1978) in Mozambique and David Stedman (MA African Studies, 1967) in New Jersey. I look forward to seeing both this year and sharing SOAS memories of defending one's papers, eccentric professors, the diverse student body and the splendid old British Museum Reading Room. (A reader's entry pass for the BM was worth its weight in gold.) Most of my items were stored at Woolwich and, after putting in the request, it took three days for the stuff to arrive. You got used to it and it was always three days. If you left your desk for more than 45 minutes, then a guard came along and removed everything, hence we ate a lot of cold pork pies and drank 3p cups of tea in the basement café. The adjacent State Paper Room documents were so dusty, one had to wash one's hands about every hour!

Theodore W Scull

(MA Area Studies - Africa, 1967)

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History

During my final year as a History student at SOAS, two events conspired to change the course of my plans. In January 1971, General Idi Amin seized power in Uganda and then I was diagnosed with Kerataconus in my eyes.

Thus instead of pursuing a Diploma in Education at Makerere University, a Master's Degree at SOAS or even accepting a post at the President's Office, I took a crash Secretarial course to support myself while undergoing treatment at Moorfields Eye Hospital. After a stint at the Ugandan and Zambian High Commissions and *The Sunday Times*, I returned in 1976 to Uganda where I worked

Wartime Translator courses 1944 - 1946

Were you on one of these courses? If you remember Jack Sanders and would like to get in touch with him please write c/o:
alumni@soas.ac.uk

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



at the National Housing and Construction Corporation.

In December 1978, I was in London for [Sally Stockley's](#) (MA History, 1972) wedding when the Liberation War to remove Idi Amin from power intensified. I could not go home under the circumstances but as my one-month visa had expired I sought temporary refuge in Nairobi. In April 1979, I returned home after the fall of Amin; having thus escaped this war, another one was to follow shortly.

When President Yoweri Museveni came to power in 1986, it became possible to travel again and while visiting London in March 1987, a casual eye check-up at Moorfields prompted a corneal graft operation. I have remained here ever since and I retired as an Information Technology lecturer recently.

[Sarah R Mulira](#) (BA History, 1971)
Sarah.mulira@btinternet.com

Middle East Economic Survey

I graduated with a BA in Arabic and have made good use of the language ever since. At present I am editor of a weekly Nicosia-based energy / economy / politics newsletter, *Middle East*

Economic Survey (MEES), which is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year. For many years I was a correspondent for the BBC, based in Beirut, and later in Jerusalem. My latest book on the region, *The New Arabs*, will be published by IB Tauris later this year.

I have been in contact in the not-so-recent past with one of my old SOAS colleagues, [Ken Whittingham](#) (BA Arabic, 1972) - we worked together for a time on a BBC Arabic magazine in London. I know that [Professor] [Ian Netton](#), (BA Arabic, 1972) has had a distinguished academic career at Exeter University. But I have lost touch with all others who were on the same course, under the watchful eye of [Professor Owen Wright](#). I would be very interested to hear from anyone who has followed their progress.

[Gerald Butt](#) (BA Arabic, 1972)
gbutt@mees.com

Peace Direct

www.peacedirect.org

[Carolyn Hayman OBE](#) is co-founder and Chief Executive of Peace Direct, an NGO supporting local civil society peacebuilding in conflict areas. 'Having been a long way away from development, investing in technology startups among other things, it's good to be back in touch with SOAS through colleagues and interns from the Conflict and Development course. Visit our website when you're feeling daunted by all the conflict in the world and find out about the people who are risking their lives to bring about lasting peace.'

[Carolyn Hayman OBE](#)
(MSc Development Economics 1973-5)

round the world; it even made *The Washington Post* – not bad for an academic book launch. Media in Kenya and internationally made links between the history I had unearthed and contemporary land reparations' claims being planned by Maasai activists against the British and Kenyan governments.

After the DPhil, I spent three further years at St Antony's, working with former supervisor Professor William Beinart on a co-authored book, *Environment and Empire* (forthcoming 2007), commissioned by Oxford University Press for the companion series to its *History of the British Empire*. For the past year I have been Lecturer in African Arts and Cultures at the Ferguson Centre for African and Asian Studies, The Open University. Despite the job title, this is a purely research post. My research interests include museums and heritage in Kenya and South Africa, land

and resource claims, representation and identity issues in the post-colony, and the indigenous peoples' rights movement. Luckily, my work takes me to Africa (mostly Kenya) quite frequently.

[Dr Lotte Hughes](#)
(MA Area Studies –Africa, 1988)
lotilda@hotmail.com



▲ [Sarah Mulira](#)

▲ [Gerald Butt](#)

▲ [Carolyn Hayman OBE](#)

▲ [Dr Lotte Hughes](#)

Maasai History

I went on – a decade after leaving SOAS – to do a doctorate in modern African history at St Antony's College, Oxford (1998-2002), after a spell as a journalist for a leading NGO. The DPhil allowed me to build upon interests in Maasai history that I had begun to pursue at SOAS. I used oral and archival sources to investigate the history of land losses and forced moves of Maasai in British East Africa (Kenya) in the 1900s – a subject that had not been thoroughly researched before. A book based on my dissertation, *Moving the Maasai: A Colonial Misadventure*, was eventually published by Palgrave Macmillan in 2006.

I launched this in Nairobi in April 2006, and excerpts were serialised in *The East African*, the major regional weekly newspaper, under the initial headline: 'Laikipia - Kenya's first, most spectacular land grab' (July 10-16). Reuters covered the launch event, and syndicated a story

'Avocats sans Frontières' (Lawyers without borders)

I can still remember very clearly how much I wanted to go to SOAS. The sound of its name alone was enough to draw me to it like a magnet. The School of Oriental and African Studies... inspiring, don't you think? And it was no deception, it was fantastic! All of it, the demanding Arabic course run by [Dr Wright](#), [Michael Anderson's](#) lively Law and Development classes, [Chibli Malat's](#) mind-opening Islamic law lectures, to name but a few of the great learning opportunities that SOAS gave me. And I also remember the people I met there such as [Chris](#) the endearing bar manager, [Matthew Eyre](#), [Settu Vora](#), [Mike Etiang](#), [Seema Alibhai](#), [Rifat Hamid](#), [Matt Ross](#), [Heather](#), [Derek Goebel](#) and so many more interesting people, who have all made my life so much richer and somehow contributed to making

SOAS: "The sound of its name alone was enough to draw me to it like a magnet."

me what I am today.

I am now living in Brussels where, after spending five years at the European Commission working in the field of development cooperation, I am managing a Human Rights NGO of lawyers called 'Avocats sans Frontières' (Lawyers without Borders). It's a fascinating organisation which focuses on delivering access to justice for vulnerable groups, and fights against impunity in post-conflict countries such as Rwanda, Congo (DRC), Burundi, East-Timor, Uganda etc. We are also lucky to be involved in some fascinating and pioneering work at the International Criminal Court in the Hague. Altogether, the NGO employs around 120 people, most of whom are lawyers with a cause. Interestingly enough, my predecessor also studied at SOAS.

On the personal front, I have one lovely half-Mexican, quarter-Palestinian quarter British-daughter who just can't wait to go to University.

Veronica White

(BA Arabic, 1992)
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Buddhist Ethics

Roger Farrington read Sanskrit and Indian philosophy in the late 80s and early 90s. He still lives in London and is about to submit his doctoral thesis on Buddhist ethics, with reference to the work of the contemporary philosopher Derek Parfit. He still uses the library from time to time. Whenever he is in the School, he remembers hundreds of hours spent happily on the squash courts, now demolished to make room for the recent extension. He also remembers the ease of entry to the building, which is now no longer possible.

He would be glad to renew contact with his contemporaries of ten or twenty years ago. He no longer has a beard but should be recognizable.

Roger Farrington

(Occasional student, Sanskrit, 1994; current PhD student) rwfarrington@talk21.com

Law

After graduating from SOAS in 1996 I spent a number of years living between Beijing and my native Sweden, whilst completing a law degree. Later I worked as a junior judge

in court, which is a common way to start a legal career in Sweden. In 2004 I started working for Vinge, the leading commercial law firm in Sweden. Vinge has two offices in Asia and a very active China Practice Group. I have been responsible for the China Practice Group in Vinge's southern Swedish offices since spring 2006. I work in our Shanghai office from time to time. My daughter, who was actually born while I studied at SOAS, will be 13 years old this summer.

Katarina Nilsson (BA Chinese Studies, 1996)
Katarina.Nilsson@vinge.se

Energy and Commodities

It's been a busy time since graduating from SOAS in 2000.

I had no specific plans at the time to enter journalism, in which I am firmly entrenched six and a half years later, but a

where I plan to stay for a few more years.

Since graduation I have stayed in touch with a number of friends I made at SOAS, who are now in jobs around the world, and also signed up for a SOAS alumni group at Xing.com, a useful networking website.

Oliver Klaus

(BA Arabic and Economics, 2000)
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Advocacy (CSW)

After graduating in 1997, I moved to Hong Kong for five years, where I worked as a journalist. My first job was as Editor of a management magazine called *China Staff*, published by Asia Law & Practice, a subsidiary of Euromoney Publications. I travelled regularly in mainland China during this time. I then joined *The Hong Kong Standard*, where I was the leader-writer and columnist.

I returned to the UK in 2002, after spending some time in East Timor (I had the privilege of being present for the birth of the new nation), and worked freelance for a year.

In 2003, I moved to Washington, DC for eight

months, to establish a presence there for the human rights organisation Christian Solidarity Worldwide (CSW). In 2004, I took up my current job, as CSW's Advocacy Officer for South Asia, specialising in Burma, Pakistan and Sri Lanka, based in London. I travel regularly to Asia.

Since 2000, I have made more than a dozen trips to the refugees on the Thai-Burmese border and the internally displaced people inside eastern Burma. I have also made several visits to the Chin on the India-Burma border, and the Kachin on the China-Burma border. In 2004, my first book - *A Land Without Evil: Stopping the Genocide of Burma's Karen People* - was published by Monarch. I have written regularly for various publications, including *The Wall Street Journal*, and my second book - co-authored with Indian human rights activist Joseph D'souza - will be published in 2007. I have also just published a major report, "Carrying the Cross: The military



▲ Veronica White



▲ Roger Farrington



▲ Katarina Nilsson



▲ Oliver Klaus

two-month work experience at the German chamber of commerce in Ramallah in the Palestinian territories put me on track.

On my return to London, I got a job as reporter at business weekly *Middle East Economic Digest*, better known as MEED, where I began to write about economic developments in Lebanon and Syria, and later on in Iran.

In 2003, MEED sent me out to Dubai to work as Gulf correspondent, covering the UAE and Saudi Arabia, where I frequently travelled for research and meetings.

Two years later I returned to London, having been appointed news editor for the magazine.

After almost a year in the job I left MEED for a London-based role as energy reporter at Bloomberg. Recently I accepted an offer to work for Dow Jones Newswires as energy and commodities correspondent and am now once again based in Dubai,



regime's campaign of restriction, discrimination and persecution against Christians in Burma". In addition to my work with CSW, I stood as the Conservative Party Parliamentary Candidate in the City of Durham in the General Election in 2005, and currently serve as Deputy Chairman of the Conservative Party Human Rights' Commission. I am also a Trustee of the Humanitarian Aid Relief Trust (HART), and work closely with HART's Chief Executive, Baroness Cox, on international human rights and humanitarian aid issues. My mother has now joined me in the campaign to raise awareness and funds for Burma's suffering people, and has established a group called Support for the Oppressed People of Burma. She and my sister Ruth, a violinist, came with me to the Thai-Burmese border in 2006.

Benedict Rogers

(1997, MA China Area Studies)
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Humanitarian Work

Greetings from Sunny Delhi, Mates, how quickly time goes? I didn't realise that almost a decade can be counted since I completed my studies. The Amazing world! I was not as bald as now (as you can see in the picture). Anyhow, I am enjoying it, as it saves me time from combing in the morning!

It is really a great asset having a qualification from such a high profile University. It is one of the contributing factors for my current career aspirations.

At the moment I am working for the Regional Office of a well-known, worldwide humanitarian organisation based in New Delhi, India, as one of the senior managers and look after the operations of seven countries. I can confidently say that I am one of the luckiest to come and contribute to such an humanitarian programme, to see how life saving work is being done, while at the same time responding to a longer-term, sustainable development programme.

In terms of my academic life, my highest attainment, to date, is an MBA in Accounting. God willing, if things go well and if my destiny allows, I am still in my early forties and want to give research work a shot. However, unless I get a family scholarship, this one doesn't seem that easy with my two growing children (son and daughter) and my wife who wants to settle in one place. I'll see how it goes!

Also, recently I have become a member of ISACA, a professional association, with its head office based in Chicago, USA. Being a member, meets some of my learning desires in the professional sphere and I receive some continued professional education (CPE) programmes, as and when time allows.

Getachew S. Woldemariam

(P/g Diploma in Financial Policy, 1997-8)
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Tokyo marathon

The inaugural Tokyo Marathon 2007 took place on 18 February and saw 30,000 runners, including amateurs and professionals, making their way through Tokyo's streets.

Tokyo was selected as Japan's candidate for the 2016 Olympics. Therefore, the Tokyo Government was keen to show that they could handle large-scale sports

raise money for the Condor Trust for Education.

The Condor Trust for Education (www.condortrust.org) is a UK charity that works with local people to promote education and training in Ecuador. Set up in 2004 by Chris Patrick after a 4-month stay in Ecuador where she did some voluntary work, it is supported entirely by voluntary donations and volunteer actions. When Chris, previously the CEO of the company that I worked for, told me that she needed to raise some funds to continue the trust's work in Ecuador, I did not hesitate to commit to running for the Condor Trust.

Running marathons for charity is very common in Europe and the USA. However, in Japan it is a new concept. There is no tradition of supporting people or causes beyond established family, local or corporate groups. Charitable giving is not well developed and online donations are rare as Japanese people are worried about using their credit card online.

Despite this, we managed to raise about £3,500, a lot of money for a small charity. (Donations are still accepted at Condor Trust website.)

I came to Japan in 2005 to participate in the EU-sponsored Executive Training Programme (ETP) Japan. After completing the programme in December last year, I decided to stay on in Japan where I am now working as a freelance researcher. Almost nine years after graduating, I feel that I have put my studies to good use allowing me to work and live in the Asia region. I would like to hear from people who studied with me.

Alena Eckelmann

(MA South East Asian Studies, 1998)
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Norwegian Embassy

Silje Vikoy's thesis centred on the international community's response to the instability in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). After graduation she contributed to a Task Force Group set up by UK PM Tony Blair in order to revise UK African Aid and Foreign Policy.

From September 2001 she worked for the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Oslo, where she assisted the Norwegian delegation during Norway's rotational membership in the Security Council. She visited



▲ Benedict Rogers

▲ Getachew Woldemariam

▲ Alena Eckelmann

events. The Tokyo Marathon is Asia's biggest marathon and will be held annually.

The first marathon was well organized with nearly 5,000 police providing security, more than 12,000 volunteers lining the route, which was blocked for car traffic for about five hours.

Participation was on a lottery basis as the event was over-subscribed. Only about 1 in 3 aspiring runners got in. I was lucky to get a ticket and so found myself at the start line near the Tokyo Metropolitan Government Office in Shinjuku Ward wondering how to cope with the heavy rain and freezing temperature. The runners' crowd was cheerful and full of expectations, though, and off we went. 5hr 54min 17sec later I arrived at the finishing line and felt like a hero.

It was my first marathon and a big challenge for two reasons. First, having not been sporty in the past at all, I only started to run since last summer. Second, I ran to

Ethiopia and Eritrea on missions to inspect Norwegian support to programmes in that region, and assisted in forming Norwegian policy on Somalia and the Sudan. From 2002 she attended the Ministry's diplomatic academy and underwent language and other relevant training for the service.

In August 2003 she started working as a second embassy secretary for the Norwegian Embassy in Tel Aviv, before transferring to Vienna where she is now working as a first embassy secretary with responsibility for security policy.

Silje SE Vikoy (MSc in Development Studies in 2000) silje.vikoy@mfa.no

Beijing

After graduation, I returned to my hometown - Suzhou, China, and stayed there for four months to spend some relaxing time with my sweet family.

In early 2004, I moved to Beijing and joined Crown Worldwide Group - Beijing Branch.

So far I have been working for three years for Crown. The more I work for it, the more I like it. My responsibility is to develop project opportunities in Records

and Information Management Service to Multi-National Corporations in Northern China, also to explore global logistics and supply-chain solutions for MNCs in the Energy industry, such as Oil and Gas, and Coal and Mining. As a business development manager, I have to travel a lot in the Asia Pacific Region. Although I have too much work to do, I still manage to go back to London each year to spend time with my supervisors and friends, and to share information from the east to the west. London has become my second home and I so often miss her and SOAS.

Ms Hongming XIA

(MSc in International Management for China, 2003) helenx30@hotmail.com

California, USA

Shortly after graduating I went to Washington, DC for a Congressional fellowship. During my six months in DC I met my future husband, Chris. After DC and

some travelling we moved to Helsinki where I worked in the Finnish Foreign Ministry as a communications' assistant in the EU information unit.

In the summer of 2005 we moved to San Diego, California so that Chris could pursue an MA in International Economics. I was lucky enough to get a job at Chris' school: I am currently the communications coordinator for the Graduate School of International Relations and Pacific Studies (IR/PS), at the University of California, San Diego.

I have kept in touch with a number of friends from SOAS, although predictably enough, we are so spread out across the globe that we do not get to see one another as often as I would like.

Eeva (née Vaananen) Moore

(MA International & Comparative Legal Studies, 2003)

eeva.moore@gmail.com

Comparative Legal Studies, 2004) volker@lawanddevelopment.org

Bangalore, India

After I completed my degree I decided to move to Bangalore, India. I am pursuing my own research in the various Indian religions, and using my skills learnt at SOAS to write my own book. At present I have just completed editing a book for a religious master here in India and the launch took place on 24 January 2007. The title is *Life: A Celebration*, based on the various talks given by this master and the book aims to give examples of how to enjoy living life no matter where one lives, applying spiritual examples from the various religious texts. I also contribute articles to various magazines, and travel as much as I can within India, exploring historical and religious sites.

Dina Khimasia (BA Study of Religions, 2004) dinakesh@hotmail.com



▲ Silje Vikoy's

▲ Hongming XIA

▲ Volker Hüls

▲ Sanjan Haque

Dhaka

I remember SOAS with great fondness and miss it very much. After graduating, I arranged an internship with BRAC,

Somalia

After my MA, I came back to Kenya, where I had worked before in development projects. My previous work in Somalia got me into work as a consultant for UNICEF and Caritas for almost a year. UNICEF then gave me a fantastic opportunity to join the Somalia programme, managing an urban water project. After almost two years I am now moving into the Social Policy field in UNICEF, which gives me lots of exciting opportunities to apply what I learned at SOAS.

Ever since the degree I have tried to maintain an interest in the wider issues that so easily get lost in the daily workload. I have set up www.lawanddevelopment.org that is a little forum for work done by alumni of the course. I always mean to expand it, and will be happy for submissions from alumni that fit into the topics. Please feel free to write to me.

Volker Hüls (MA International and

the Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee (BRAC) in Bangladesh and left for Dhaka in January 2006. I wrote a paper on the politicisation of public life in rural Bangladesh. After completing this I was offered a permanent contract to work on the inaugural State of Governance in Bangladesh 2006 report. I helped to write two chapters and I was part of the editorial team. The report was published in December 2006 through the Centre for Governance Studies (CGS), BRAC University. As a result of the report I was offered a position at CGS as a Research Associate/Lecturer. I took this position in January 2007 and I have been working and living in Dhaka ever since and will be for the foreseeable future.

Sanjan Haque

(MA International Studies and Diplomacy, 2005) sanjanhaque@gmail.com

CHANGE OF ADDRESS
Please send your address
updates to:
alumni@soas.ac.uk

Canadian Bilateral programmes

Education is my passion – initially I wanted to be a professor. I come from a humanities background and hold undergraduate and postgraduate degrees from three different countries. During my postgraduate studies, I started lecturing in a number of American, Canadian and French colleges and universities. I then went on to co-found, develop and manage a highly successful student exchange programme in Paris for an American university.

During this time, I started to become interested in policy issues. I knew I wanted to stay in education, but at a different level. I therefore decided on a career change to become involved in Education Policy. I began working for the Canadian Permanent Delegation to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development in Paris. I had moved into public policy and was working for the government, but without a background in the field. Despite my experience in education and education management, I still felt that I lacked a theoretical, academic grounding in public policy.



▲ Diane Barbaric

The SOAS MSc corresponded to what I was looking for: concepts that I could apply to my real-life situations, and comparative and poly-cultural approaches to policy issues. In fact, it was during these studies – and partly thanks to them, I'm sure – that I succeeded in winning a recruitment competition at the Canadian Embassy in Paris. I am currently developing and managing bilateral programmes in academic relations and youth mobility.

I am really excited about where this degree can further take me. I've developed a keen interest in human rights and development policy, coupled with education and capacity-building issues; I even helped in the successful evacuation of almost 15,000 Canadians from Lebanon last summer.

I know I'll approach new career opportunities with confidence because now, not only do I have the experience but I also have the degree!

Diane Barbaric
(MSc Public Policy and Management)
diane.barbaric@gmail.com

Forthcoming at SOAS World Music Summer School 2007

For the fifth year running, SOAS is proud to offer an exciting summer school of world music. And in 2007 we offer a more varied programme than ever: intensive and inspiring courses taught by master musicians; practical workshops; master classes; and performances for students of all backgrounds, beginners to advanced, amateur and professional. Take your pick!

For more details and a booking form:
www.soas.ac.uk/summermusicschool
Department of Music, SOAS
Tel: 020 7898 4500
E-mail: musicevents@soas.ac.uk

Join the
SOAS World Music Choir
Rehearsals resume in October 2007
View the 100-strong choir, directed
by alumna Liz Powers
(MMus Ethnomusicology 2004),
performing on 20 March 2007 at
SOAS.
youtube.com

Conference

29-30 September 2007

**Change, Rules and Institutions:
Assessing Law and Economics in the
Context of Development**

Alumni working in the fields of law, economics and development may find the forthcoming Conference on Law and Economics interesting. By hosting this conference we aim to provide a venue to discuss scholarship on development as seen from the different perspectives of lawyers and economists. We aim this event to be an opportunity to discuss questions relating to the theory underlying the relationship of law to economics, with particular emphasis on the role of law in the context of economic transformation. School of Law and Department of Economics, SOAS, University of London. www.soas.ac.uk/cri
Contact: i.glinavos@soas.ac.uk

MSc Globalisation & Development

This exciting new degree programme offers a critical examination of the contemporary process of globalisation and how it has influenced the developing world, both before and after 9/11.

study@soas.ac.uk

In memoriam

The School regrets to inform you of the death of:

Dr M B Ariyapala (SOAS Lecturer), who died on 10 December 2006 in Colombo.

A Memorial Service was held for Professor W G Beasley, CBE FBA, Professor of the History of the Far East from 1954-1983 at SOAS, on Monday 23 April 2007 at St George's Church, Bloomsbury Way, London WC1.

Terence Arthur Brady (BA Honours Chinese) who died on 23 March 2007, aged 88. Terence Arthur Brady had a distinguished career in the Malayan Civil Service, 1950-59). He is survived by three sons and a daughter.

Dr Tuvia Gelblum (Reader in Indian Philosophy. 1968-1993) who died on Saturday 13 January 2007.

Dr Henry David Ginsburg, Curator of Thai and Cambodian Collections at the British Library until his retirement, who died on 29 March 2007 in New York City.

Professor Rodney Needham, Social Anthropologist, who studied Chinese post WWII at SOAS. 15 May 1923 - 4 December 2006

Professor Alan James Turney (PhD Japanese) who died on 19 December 2006.

W L Watson CBE FBA Professor of Chinese Art and Archaeology, Head of the Percival David Foundation of Chinese Art (1966-1983) who died on 15 March 2007.



© Glenn Ratcliffe, 1987

The Late Professor W L Watson

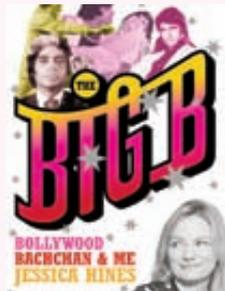
COPY DEADLINE

The copy deadline for the autumn issue of *SOAS People* is 30 September 2007. Please get in touch with photographs, news, and profiles. Contact: hb15@soas.ac.uk

Alumni Publications



© David Kilper, Washington University in St. Louis



Dr Fatemeh Keshavarz (PhD NME, 1984)

Jasmine and Stars: Reading More Than Lolita in Tehran (University of North Carolina Press, 2007)

"The author's reminiscences on Iranian literature and family life, and her reflections upon Iranian women poets, activists, and novelists, shine forth brilliantly in this groundbreaking - and urgently needed - *tour de force*." Michael Sells, University of Chicago.

Dr Keith Howard (Occasional Student, Korean, 1982)

(Ed.) *Korean Pop Music: Riding the Wave* (Global Oriental, 2007)

Vols 1 and 2 SOAS Musicology:

Preserving Korean Music: Intangible Cultural Properties as Icons of Identity (Ashgate, 2006) and *Creating Korean Music: Tradition, Innovation, and the Discourse of Identity* (Ashgate, Oct 2006).

James Waterson (History of Art and Archaeology and History, 2000)

The Knights of Islam: The Wars of the Mamluks (Greenhill Books, 2007). James Waterson has worked and taught in the United States and China for a number of years and now lives in Italy where he is writing a book he knows he will never finish on Bohemond of Taranto. *The Knights of Islam* is his first book on an historical subject and he would be interested to hear from readers: jamesaawaterson@yahoo.com.

Jessica Hines (BA Study of Religions, 1997)

Looking For the Big B: Bollywood Bachchan and Me (Bloomsbury, 2007)

"It starts with a flash back to my first meeting the Bollywood living legend Amitabh whilst doing a course with **Dr Rachel Dwyer**..."

FORTHCOMING



(Left) A scene from *Chincha-Chancha Cooroo* performed in autumn 2006 by W11 Opera, London-based children's music theatre company. The libretto was written by

Dr William Radice (Diploma in Bengali, 1972-4) and is based on a story by Upendrakishore Raychaudhuri (grandfather of film-director Satyajit Ray) in his classic Bengali children's book *Tuntunir Boi* (The Tailor-bird's Book, 1910), which Radice translated as *The Stupid Tiger and Other Tales* (Andre Deutsch, 1981). There are plans to perform the opera in Kolkata (January 2008) and Boston (2009). For further information: www.w11opera.org

Dr Tim Smith (MA in Asian History, 1997) *Britain and the Origins of the Vietnam War: UK Policy in Indo-China 1943-1950* will be published in Palgrave Macmillan's *Global Conflict and Security since 1945* series on 24 August 2007.

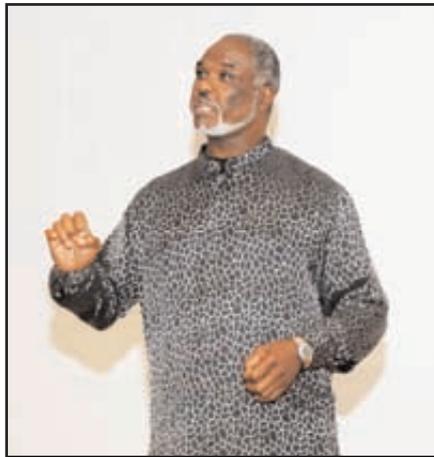
Events at SOAS

For details of forthcoming concerts, events, exhibitions, lectures, seminars and the World Music Summer School 2007, visit: www.soas.ac.uk

From SOAS' Photo Album



SOAS Photography © Glenn Ratcliffe



Top left, L to R: **Tony Benn** (former Labour MP and Cabinet Minister) with **Dr Akin Oyetade** (Head of the Department of the Languages and Cultures of Africa). **Tony Benn and Sir Willard White** (centre) were amongst those who gathered for the unveiling of a plaque at SOAS to honour one of the School's most famous alumni **Paul Robeson** (Phonetics and Swahili, 1934). The event on 20 September 2006 in the Brunei Gallery Lecture Theatre (BGLT) was organised by **Philip J Jaggat** (Professor of West African Linguistics). **Top row, centre:** Siberian Shamans Double Bill: **Chyskyrai** (pictured) and **Stepanida Borisova**, vocalists from the Siberian Republic of Sakha (Yakutia) performed on 16 October 2006 in the BGLT. **Top row, right:** Remembering Slavery. The 200th anniversary of the abolition of the transatlantic slave trade was marked at SOAS by a programme of events (Feb–June 2007) including an illustrated talk by **Adam Hochschild**, based on his book *Bury the Chains: the British Struggle to Abolish Slavery* entitled: *Fighting to be Free: Who really ended the British slave trade?* The talk took place on 28 February 2007, chaired by Professor Chris Cramer; the programme of events was organised by Kelly Scott. **Centre row, left:** Snow falls in February 2007 on the statue of Tiruvalluvar. **Centre row, right:** **Japan Special!** Gennosuke Matsumoto & Troupe: Tokyo Festival Music and Sanshinkai: Okinawan Music & Dance which took place on Friday 1 December 2006 in the BGLT. **Bottom row:** **Clare Solomon**, re-elected as Students Union Co-President Finance and Communications (2007-8), campaigning on International Women's Day, 8 March 2007 on the steps of SOAS.

The views expressed in SOAS People are those of individual contributors and do not necessarily reflect those of the School of Oriental and African Studies.

Thank you to all SOAS colleagues who got in touch with news items for this issue of SOAS People. Special thanks to Professor Ian Brown and Mary O Shea. Printed by: TMB International, Kent, TN15 8TB



SOAS Photography © Glenn Ratcliffe

Tapping Into The Known
The life and work of Christopher Okigbo & Obi Okigbo

From April to June 2007 SOAS presented an exhibition of poetry, paintings and installations by the late poet **Christopher Okigbo** and his artist daughter, **Obi Okigbo** (above) that emerged as a result of "conversations" between Obi and her father. Okigbo, considered to be one of Africa's pre-eminent and enigmatic poets, died in the battlefields of the Nigerian civil war, in September 1967, leaving his wife and two year-old daughter, Obiageli. The exhibition was curated by Annabelle Nwankwo-Muazu

For forthcoming Brunei Gallery exhibitions visit: www.soas.ac.uk

The Brunei Gallery (SOAS)
Thornhaugh Street, Russell Square
London WC1H 0XG
OPEN: Tuesday – Saturday,
10.30-17.30
CLOSED: Sunday and Monday
ADMISSION FREE
Tel: 020 7898 4046 - Recorded
Information
Fax: 020 7898 4259
e-mail: gallery@soas.ac.uk