



A NOTE FROM CARLA LINEBACK

DIRECTOR OF ALUMNI ENGAGEMENT

I'm happy to share this edition of the alumni newsletter. In addition to the news and updates from alumni, I am excited to let you know that the online alumni community and directory has a new look! The platform just released its next generation, which has better functionality. If you haven't already, I encourage you to register at connect.sit.edu now. This is the place to go to receive and post event information, news, jobs, and best of all, use the customizable and searchable alumni directory.

I'll be hosting alumni gatherings around the country (see the upcoming events sections) and I hope to see you at one of them. We are working hard to make it to new cities and expand to locations outside the U.S., so be sure to stay in touch!

If you know of an SIT alum who is not receiving our news, please ask them to [reach out to me](#).

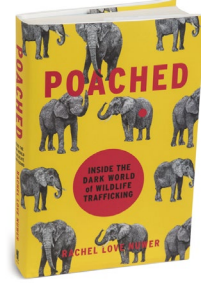
Carla



IN NEW BOOK, SIT VIETNAM ALUMNA TAKES ON WILDLIFE TRAFFICKING

Rachel Nuwer, SIT Vietnam 2006, is a science writer and travel enthusiast who has been to 70 countries and lived in six. One of them is Vietnam.

"It's a beautiful place," says the Biloxi, Mississippi native. But the beauty of one of the most biodiverse places on the planet carries with it an ominous side,



which Rachel details in her recently published book, *Poached: Inside the Dark World of Wildlife Trafficking*.

Poached takes readers across a dozen countries,

introducing them to the people who engage in illegal wildlife trade—

a multibillion-dollar contraband industry ranked just behind drug trade, arms dealing, and human trafficking — as well as those fighting to stop the killing and trafficking of animals.

That journey, Rachel says, started for her in 2006 on SIT Study Abroad's program in Vietnam, Mekong Delta: Natural and Cultural Ecology, which had an open research component. During her studies in Can Tho, about three hours south of Ho Chi Minh City, she became aware of the illegal wildlife trade.

"There was a monkey I would pass every day on my bike ride to the university, and there were exotic animals on the restaurant menus, which deeply bothered me," Nuwer explains. "That's when the idea was planted."

Nuwer completed her bachelor's degree in biology at Loyola University in New Orleans. She finished a master's degree in 2011 following two internships—one at *Audubon* magazine and the second at *The New York Times* environment desk. Today, she is an award-winning science journalist who regularly contributes to top publications, including *National*

Geographic, *Scientific American*, and *The New York Times*. Now she's also a book author.

Rachel says there needs to be a carrot-and-stick approach to stopping wildlife trafficking and explains that economic development and aid can play important roles. "Until these communities are brought out of poverty, it's not going to ever end," she says in a *Sciencentric* podcast.

She adds that even seemingly innocuous actions, like a visit to a tiger petting zoo in Thailand, can have disastrous effects. Behind the scenes, the tigers are illegally sold and slaughtered, their bones turned into wine, their teeth and claws used for making jewelry, and their meat sold for consumption.

Returning to the genesis of *Poached*, Nuwer says, "SIT changed my life. It was a really formative experience for me." She recalls another student saying at the end of the SIT program he didn't think they realized how much Vietnam would eventually mean to them.

"I knew," she says.

ALUMNI NEWS

Kevin Casey, SIT Indonesia 1997, is founder of *New Avenue Homes*, a home-buying and construction company that seeks to reinvent the concept of housing in the U.S. to be more inclusive. Kevin returned to Indonesia in 2000 on a Fulbright scholarship to conduct research on economic development. Through his experiences in Indonesia, he learned there is a social obligation among Indonesians with sufficient housing to host someone from their community who can't afford a home.

Jessica Daniels, IHP Rethinking Globalization 2010, works for Fibershed, a nonprofit organization based in the San Francisco Bay Area, developing regional and regenerative textile systems.

Ana-Sofia Joanes, IHP Global Ecology 1993, has a new documentary, *Wrestling Ghosts*, about childhood trauma and its impact on parenting. The film opened in New York City on November 15. Ana's previous film is *Fresh, the Movie*, about food production in the U.S.

Melanie (Clouser) Magidow, SIT Morocco 2001, created *Marhaba Language Expertise* last year. She offers English and Arabic language courses and consulting. Melanie has a PhD from the University of Texas at Austin in Arabic Studies.

Margaret McClintic, SIT China 2006, lived in Shanghai for eight years as director of International Outreach for Sunrise International Education. She currently resides in Los Angeles.

Yvonne Ochilo, SIT Jamaica 2004, published a paper that addresses the challenges indigenous peoples face when protecting their intellectual property, and the economic hardships they experience when exploited. The paper, "Keeping

Traditions," was published in the March 2018 edition of the prestigious *Intellectual Property Magazine*.

Allison Ryder, SIT Uganda 2014, graduated from Loyola University in 2016 and began her career at JP Morgan Chase in the Global Trade Department. She recently started her master's in Global Human Development at Georgetown University, focusing her studies on development finance and social enterprise and innovation.

Jack Sapoch, SIT Serbia 2017, returned to the Balkans last fall to assist refugees in the region. Jack learned about the refugee crises along the Balkan route during his time as an SIT student. He joined the independent NGO No Name Kitchen, which provides meals to refugees in the region.

Sarah Schenck, International Honors Program 1986, has published an op-ed in *The New York Times* titled "[Save the Germs](#)." Sarah is co-director of a documentary film in production about the critical role of microbes in human health.

During their SIT experience, **Caleb Schut** and **Sonja Davidson**, SIT Uganda 2010, met Patrick Ssenyonjo who, at just 19, was running *Raising Up Hope* (RUHU), an organization dedicated to alleviating poverty among children. After working with Patrick and the children at RUHU, when they returned home Caleb and Sonja shared the children's stories. With the assistance of family and friends, they began sending monthly support to RUHU and eventually started their own nonprofit, *Beautiful Response*, where they continue to partner with Patrick and SIT and have expanded their work to include Haiti.

John Lindsay-Poland, SIT Ireland 1982, is coordinator of the Stop U.S. Arms to Mexico project of Global Exchange. He is also an employee in the American Friends

Service Committee's California Healing Justice Program. He recently published a book, *Plan Colombia: U.S. Ally Atrocities and Community Activism*.

Marieke Slovin, SIT Mali 2002, works with refugees in Brussels. She writes songs from their stories using a method called Story-to-Song, which she created as a doctoral student studying sustainability education at Prescott College. She is hoping to create an album of professional recordings and publish a songbook with lyrics and photos of the asylum center.

RECOGNITIONS

Adamseged "Adam" Abebe, IHP Health 2018, is one of two awardees selected for the new Global Rhodes Scholarship for study at the University of Oxford. He is currently a student at the University of Pennsylvania and will begin his studies at Oxford this fall.

Alena Antonowich, SIT Argentina 2016, is an international development major at Washington University in St. Louis. She returned to Argentina last year as a Fulbright researcher on intercultural bilingual education. In the near future, she will present her findings at conferences in South America and publish an article.

Melissa Diamond, IHP Human Rights 2013, has received the prestigious Schwarzman Scholarship, a year-long program that takes students from around the globe to study China's role in the world while pursuing a master's of Global Affairs at Schwarzman College at Tsinghua University in Beijing. Melissa is also the founder and executive director of *A Global Voice for Autism*.

Christina Noto, SIT Serbia 2017, will travel to Namibia through a fellowship with the Center for Public Service to work on youth

development. She was inspired by her experiences in Sarajevo as an intern at the War Childhood Museum, which tells the stories of children affected by conflict.

Max Smith, SIT Cameroon 2016, conducted his ISP on *Mobile Telephony and Local Agency: Cameroonian Ways of Appropriation*, and continued his research at Kenyon College. That research has now been published as a book by Langaa, a Cameroonian company. Max is in Togo on a nine-month Research Fulbright to study the impact of mobile telephony on the rural-urban divide.

Claire Wang, IHP Climate Change 2018, has been named a Rhodes Scholar. She will graduate from Duke in May and will be at Oxford as a Rhodes Scholar beginning this fall. Claire tells us: "I wrote in my application about my IHP study abroad experience and how it made me realize that I wanted to work on international climate issues. IHP was a real turning point in my life, and I'm very grateful for it!"

Matthew Zarenkiewicz, SIT Serbia 2016, is a Fulbright recipient who returned to Belgrade last fall to research LGBTQ+ activist strategies and tactics. His research is built on his ISP with SIT from spring 2016, which addressed similar issues in Sarajevo.

Joseph Lee, Kelly Mallon, Brett Marshall, Nicolas Turch, and Derek Van of St. Thomas University participated on the SIT Jordan Summer 2018 Engineering and Design for Sustainable Environments program and produced a dehydrator for a women's co-op. The dehydrator was designed in Jordan as part of the requirements for the Design Project course. SIT will arrange for the dehydrator to be taken to Jordan and given to the women's co-op as part of the program's [reciprocity project](#).

IHP REUNIONS IN THE WORKS!

IHP Class of '94 members **Adam Van De Water, Samuel Stegeman, and Cari Miyo Sakashita** are getting great responses to outreach for their 25th IHP Reunion, which is tentatively scheduled for June in Massachusetts.

IHP Class of '69 members **Bill Michaelcheck, Edward Lebow, Thomas Hiatt, Susan Meiselas, Michael Siegal, John Mackie, Lawrence Cooley, Ronaleen Roha,** and many others are planning to gather in New York City the first weekend in May for their 50th IHP Reunion. Alumni plan to come from as far as Australia, Mexico, and Cambodia!

STAFF/FACULTY NEWS

Five SIT Study Abroad academic directors and four program collaborators have been accepted to present papers at two SIT Study Abroad sponsored panels at the 2019 Latin America Study Association Congress in Boston in May. The ADs are **Ana Laura Lobo, Ana Rita Díaz Muñoz, Nuria Pena, and Augustina Triquell**, all from Argentina, and **Roberto Villaseca** from Chile.

Tara Dhakal will present a paper at the 15th Annual Conference of the Forum on Education Abroad in Denver, Colo in March. Her presentation, "Co-creating with Communities: SIT Study Abroad collaborative projects," draws extensively on her experience facilitating student/community collaborative projects in Sikkim, India each summer. It will be part of the panel titled "Vivre-Ensemble Ideal: Creating Shared Designs in an Environment of Populism and Contentious Politics."

OPPORTUNITIES & OTHER NEWS

Interested in an SIT sweatshirt, water bottle, or other fun branded items? Visit [SIT's online store!](#)

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 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 becoming group leaders for our high school Experiment in International Living programs, or travelling with an IHP group as a Trustee's Fellow. These opportunities are posted on SIT's employment webpage.

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

Alumni gatherings and other opportunities are listed on our online community. Check it out at [connect.sit.edu!](#)

For more information on items in this newsletter, write to alumni@sit.edu.

UPCOMING EVENTS

We are planning several alumni gatherings, including (but not limited to) the list below. Invitations are sent to alumni based on mailing address, so please make sure we have your correct information. Events are also posted on the alumni community and directory, [connect.sit.edu](#).

March 14 - Atlanta, GA

March 26 - Seattle, WA

March 28 - San Francisco, CA

April 23 - Minneapolis, MN

May 29 - Washington, DC



ABOUT

WORLD LEARNING INC.



World Learning Inc., the nonprofit parent organization of SIT Study Abroad, 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. The global nonprofit 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 later became 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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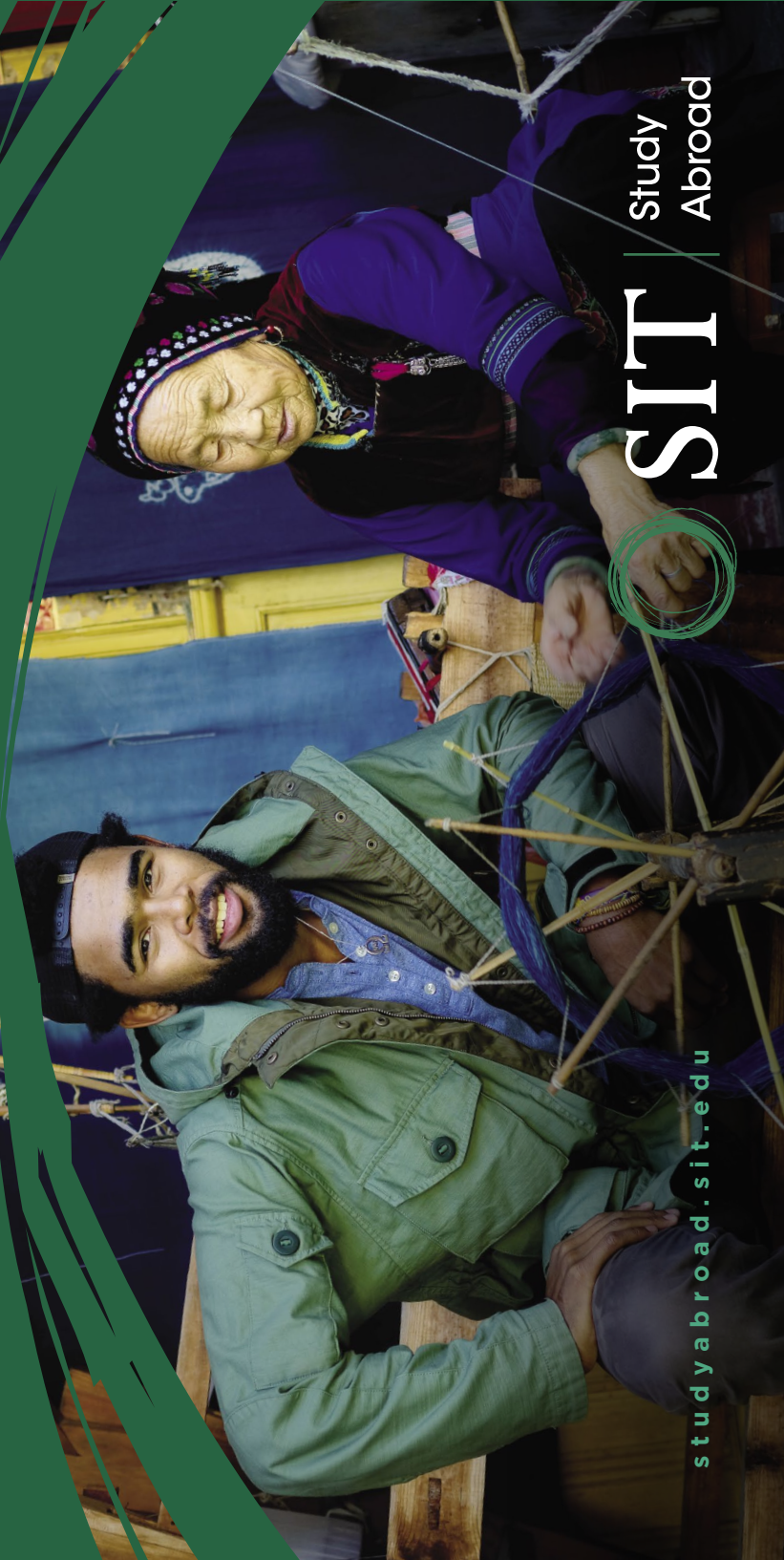
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