



A NOTE FROM CARLA LINEBACK

DIRECTOR OF ALUMNI ENGAGEMENT

I've said it before and I'll say it again: One of my favorite parts of this job is having alumni stop by for a visit. **Louis Meucci** and **Hirak Biswas**, both ICT 23, spent two days on campus recently, visiting International Education classes with Professor **Sora Friedman**, PIM 35, and Professor Emerita **Linda Drake Gobbo**. They also met with other administrators and visited with **Alvino Fantini**, professor emeritus and director of the Institutional Archives (photo below). While we



walked around campus, we shared various memories, compared notes on how buildings were used, and talked about how small the world really is, especially when looking at it through the SIT lens.

If you're passing through Brattleboro, please consider reaching out to me as I'd love to host you, catch up, and see what this office can do for you!

Carla



Back row L-R Michael Furtado, Susan (Shrank) Furtado, Virginia "Ginna" Portman-Amis, N. Patricia Brogdon-Gomez, Cindy Anson, Rob (Reggie) Anson, Cathy Berger,

Front Row, L-R Claire Lematta, Grace Johnson, Fernando Gomez-Frutos (ISE-International Student of English), Sue Raufer, Rob Rosenberger, Lisa Soldat, Robert Lawson, Bari Shamas

A REUNION IN VERMONT

Did you know that SIT granted over 500 undergraduate degrees as part of the World Issues Program (WIP) that ran for 25 years? While the undergraduate programs we offer now are in the form of SIT's semester and summer study abroad programs, the WIP program is part of our treasured history and the relationships formed during that program remain strong. Here's a reunion story submitted by Bari Shamas, WIP 7. Remember that the Alumni Office can support your reunion efforts and perhaps even provide some SIT goodies.

We did it again. WIP VII's, Miracle WIPs, Sevens, WIPsters—we reunited. Second time in four years. Some were suspicious that 2019's reunion could match the magic of 2014. Doubts quickly dissipated.

There is something really magical about these reunions. How we see our younger selves and our mature beings all in one. How we continue to learn about and from each other. The last two reunions were held at my house in Westminster West, Vermont. The space holds each person with love and caring and each person responds with the same. Though we ventured into Brattleboro on Saturday late morning to visit the farmer's market, most everyone headed back to the Big Mama House to marvel at our good fortune of being together.

If you want a recipe for a great reunion, start with beautiful people. Give yourselves time. Make food. Share it. Have loosely facilitated group discussions. Have your old faculty join in for meals and talks. Let everyone gab in their smaller groups. Skype in classmates in foreign lands who are there doing amazing work.

We loved it so much we are already planning to do it again. Same space, two years and one week later, so more people can come. A smaller group may meet again in Colorado next year. And maybe more will join Bob Lawson and his amazing wife Cicely to walk the Camino de Santiago in Spain next year, just as this year the reunion season started early when Claire Lematta, Lisa Soldat and Bari Shamas met in April to walk the Camino with Bob, Cicely, and their travel group.

If your class wants to have a reunion at Bari's house, contact her, she is open to hosting these sorts of gatherings. Write to alumni@sit.edu.

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

ALUMNI NEWS

Jeff Lansdale, ICT 25 1979, lives in Honduras where he is president of Zamorano University, an institution with a rigorous curriculum for 1,200 students from more than 20 countries. The university is currently looking for certified English teachers.

Denise Wallace, PIM 36 1985, was recently named vice president and general counsel at Florida A&M University. She earned her BA in journalism/English from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst and her MA in Intercultural Service, Leadership, and Management from SIT. Denise served as assistant city attorney for the City of Miami, assistant school board attorney for Miami-Dade County Public Schools; and general counsel for Palm Beach State College.

Judy Sharkey, MAT 20 TESOL 1989, has four recent publications, *Self-Study of Language and Literacy Teacher Education Practices: Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Contexts*; *Missing a S-STEP: How Self Study of Teacher Education Practice can Support the Language Teacher Education Knowledge Base*; *The Promising Potential Role of Intercultural Citizenship in Preparing Mainstream Teachers for Im/migrant Populations*; and *Engaging Research: Transforming Practices for the Elementary Classroom*.

Nancy E. Dollahite, MAT 21 1991, recently published *Field Notes From Sichuan: Learning To Be a Foreigner*. Based on her

experience teaching there in the 1980s, the book is one woman's love story with rural China as it rushes toward becoming a nation of city-dwellers. Facing culture clashes that test her beliefs, she begins to see herself in a new way.

Stephen Sadlier, MAT 31 ESOL Spanish Generalist 1999, recently published *Movements on the Streets and in Schools: State Repression, Neoliberal Reforms, and Oaxaca Teacher Counter-Pedagogies*. He is currently working at the South Puget Sound Community College in Washington.

Jessica (Hillard) Goldberg, PIM 65 Peacebuilding and Conflict Transformation 2005, co-authored an article about the work she was able to do at her practicum site in 2008-2010 before completing her SIT degree. Jessica is grateful to SIT for the opportunity to learn and prepare for the work she is doing now in restorative justice and mediation.

Jonathan Andrew, PIM 68 International Education 2008, has co-authored an interactive book, *LOOK UP—Gaining Insight and Direction Through Experiential Learning—For Your Personal Professional and Civic Life*. Jon and his co-author identify and examine the choices that students face when navigating through their institutions of higher learning, workplaces and global society. Jon is currently a faculty member at Northeastern University.

Jack Karn, PIM 73 Peacebuilding and Conflict Transformation 2013, returned

after three years of serving overseas in Jerusalem and Nazareth as a Missionary with the Episcopal Church and Jerusalem Peacebuilders. Now based in Houston, TX as Program Director of Jerusalem Peacebuilders, Jack is developing their domestic programming.

Jaime Durham, MAT 44 TESOL 2012, is the new administrative manager for the Broad Brook Community Center in Guilford, VT. Jaime received her BA from Cornell University, and MA from SIT Graduate Institute, where she has also worked. She has been a language instructor in Thailand and South Korea, a children's librarian, and, most recently, was on the staff of Hilltop Montessori School in Brattleboro.

Shinichiro Matsuguma, MAT 44 TESOL 2012, is a PhD student specializing in positive psychology at Keio University School of Medicine in Tokyo and has set up a non-profit to rehabilitate *hikikomori* (people who have remained isolated at home for at least six consecutive months) called the Strength Association. He's provided coaching to 32 patients using principles from positive psychology, which focuses on strengths rather than flaws. The majority of his clients play video games so this typically involves discussing playing styles and motivations to identify strengths like teamwork, strategy or leadership.

Stephanie Morgena, DC 2 Sustainable Development 2012, was promoted from Chief of the Quality Management Section to Assistant Chief of the

Integrated Systems of Care Division at the Department of Healthcare Services. She will be working on organizational development and strategic planning for Medi-Cal/Medicaid programs in California. She is a proud mother of two, a son who is in first grade and a three-year-old daughter.

Riah Werner, MAT 47 TESOL 2015, is an English Language Fellow at the National Pedagogical Institute for Technical and Professional Training in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire. She is developing a national professional development program for Ivorian English teachers, which includes delivering twice monthly workshops for in-service teachers at ten focus schools, creating a website with videos and teaching materials accessible throughout the country, and planning Côte d'Ivoire's first national English teaching conference. She also designed an English for Leadership course, which uses materials from the Young African Leaders Initiative to prepare advanced students to become leaders in their communities.

Congratulations to **Alex Beck**, PIM 72 Intercultural Leadership 2012, and **Steffen Gillom**, PIM 75 Peacebuilding and Conflict Transformation 2015, who were named 2019 Emerging Leaders of Southern Vermont. Alex is the Workforce & Education Program Manager for Brattleboro Development Credit Corporation and Steffen is President of the Windham County NAACP, and VPR Commentator.

FACULTY NEWS

Karen Blanchard, ICT 10 1972, and **Linda Drake Gobbo** received the prestigious title of “professor emerita” during the May 2019 Commencement Ceremony in Vermont.

Diane Larsen Freeman, MAT professor emerita is a recipient of the SUNY Oswego award.

Elizabeth Tannenbaum, MAT 4 TESOL 1973, and professor emerita, is a recipient of the Elizabeth Topham Kennan Award from Mount Holyoke College, which is awarded to an alumna for outstanding achievement in and contributions to the field of higher education.

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

We are planning alumni gatherings in various cities including Washington, DC; San Francisco, California; Denver, Colorado; St. Louis, Missouri; Chicago, Illinois; Minneapolis, Minnesota; Boston, Massachusetts; Providence, Rhode Island; and Seattle, Washington. We are also working on something outside the United States. Invitations to alumni gatherings are sent by email based on the mailing address we have on file for you, so please make sure we have your correct email and mailing address! You can write to alumni@sit.edu to update your contact information, or to receive more details on alumni gatherings that are in the works.

Stay up-to-date on alumni gatherings and other news by registering in the alumni community and directory at connect.sit.edu.

Show your SIT pride with a sweatshirt, water bottle, or other fun, branded item. Visit SIT's online store at: cafepress.com/SIT.

GLOBAL LEADERSHIP EXCHANGE PROGRAM

We are pleased to announce a new international exchange opportunity for alumni and friends! The Global Leadership Exchange (GLEx) program will provide short-term professional and cultural exchange programs to destinations around the world. Through meetings with local organizations and institutions, participants will share ideas and gain insights in areas such as organizational structure, education, governance, leadership, and community service. Watch your email for more information regarding a June 2020 program to Israel and Jordan. For more information visit: www.worldlearning.org/GLEx.

and expanded, are the framework upon which all SIT undergrad and graduate programs are built. Watch your email for news about and requests for papers for the symposium, which is set for May 2020 on the Vermont campus and will address Identity and Human Resilience.

Interested in being a leader with our Youth Exchange Programs for summer 2020? Leaders work both in the US and abroad with students from around the world. The application will be available this fall. 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 study abroad summer programs for high school students. Scholarships are available to educators and family members of alumni. Visit experiment.org/apply/scholarships.

SIT Study Abroad provides academically rich undergraduate semester and summer programs, most with field research or internships, and International Honors Program comparative study. Experiment alumni or immediate family members of alumni receive an automatic scholarship of up to \$1,000. Visit studyabroad.sit.edu.

OPPORTUNITIES & OTHER NEWS

You're among the first to know that plans are underway for SIT's first **Critical Global Issues (CGIs) research symposium**. The CGIs, which have just been re-drafted

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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Save the planet! Receive this newsletter by email. Write to alumni@sit.edu to add your address to our email list.

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.

LET'S BE SOCIAL!



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Alumni Newsletter
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