



COMMONWEALTH
SCHOLARSHIPS

NEWS

Promoting learning, development and co-operation

Issue 1
September 2006



New Agriculture Network launched

DeIPHE – NEW RESEARCH AND COLLABORATIVE OPPORTUNITIES • THE COMMISSION HAS MOVED! • NEWS FROM OUR SCHOLARS AND ALUMNI • ALUMNI IN ACTION • ALUMNI PROFILE • FUNDRAISING SUCCESS! • CSC EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES •

THIS ISSUE EDITORIAL

2 – 3 **News Round-Up**

The latest from the Commonwealth Scholarship Commission.

4 – 5 **Scholars' News**

News, views and events of our current scholars.

6 – 7 **Professional Networks**

Reports on recent network seminars and events.

8 – 9 **Alumni in Action**

An update on the activities of our alumni.

10 **Alumni Profile**

Dr Catherine Muthuri, former Commonwealth Split-site Scholar from Kenya.

11 **DelPHE- funding for university partnerships. Advisers' Meeting 2006.**

12 **Information about the CSFP and CSC contact details**



Welcome to the first edition of our new publication, *Commonwealth Scholarships News*. This brings together news and information about the activities of the Commonwealth Scholarship Commission and is designed for all those who have an interest in our programmes and activities. Alumni will find information about recent developments in the programme as well as events that might be of continuing interest to them. We are always keen to hear from Alumni, and so if you have news that you would like to share, please do get in touch. For present scholars and fellows, *Commonwealth Scholarships News* provides details of ongoing events and activities that will be of interest during the tenure of their awards. Don't hesitate to contact the editorial team should you need more detail about any of the items mentioned. *Commonwealth Scholarships News* is also intended to give up-to-date information about the Commonwealth Scholarship and Fellowship Plan for a wider audience with interests in the Commonwealth, higher education and development agendas. Scholars and fellows in the UK are funded by the Department for International Development (DFID) and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO), and much of their research is intended to have direct development impact in their home countries. *Commonwealth Scholarships News* therefore contains information about a wide range of agendas relating to the interface between 'development' and higher education, and we hope that it will provoke debate and discussion on the issues raised. Especial thanks go to the editorial team for putting this new publication together. Do give them your feedback!

Professor Tim Unwin, Chair of the Commonwealth Scholarship Commission Communications Committee



*Woburn House, Central London;
the new home of the CSC Secretariat*

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(formerly *Omnis*)

Editorial Team:

Dr John Kirkland, Jocelyn Law,
Anna O'Flynn and Karen McMillan.

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Commonwealth Scholarship Commission

c/o The Association of Commonwealth Universities
Woburn House
20 – 24 Tavistock Square
London
WC1H 9HF
UK

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NEWS ROUND-UP

NEW COMMISSION MEMBERS

The Commission has recently appointed four new members:

- Dr Denis Blight has been Director General of the Centre for Agriculture and Biosciences International (CABI) for the past six years. He has worked as an Australian diplomat, and has also been Chief Executive of IDP Education Australia.
- Dr Monica Darnbrough has worked in the Home Office, with the Chief Scientific Adviser in the Cabinet Office, and was a member of the Council of the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council.
- Sir Brian Donnelly has held a number of overseas diplomatic appointments, including the UK Mission in New York, Singapore and Athens, and was British Ambassador in Belgrade and Harare.
- Dr Norman Geddes is Business Group Technical Manager with QinetiQ Sensors and Electronics Division, and has expertise in the physical sciences. He worked for the Commonwealth Scientific and Research Organisation (CSIRO) in Australia between 1990–1994.

NEW SELECTIONS FOR 2006

A total of 420 scholarships are being awarded for 2006 entry at UK universities. These can be broken down into the following categories of award:

- **228 General Scholarships** for students to pursue Masters and PhD degrees.
- **64 Commonwealth Fellowships.** These support the cost of up to six months' work in the United Kingdom for staff of universities in certain developing Commonwealth countries.
- **68 Professional Fellowships.** These offer opportunities for mid-career professionals to visit the United Kingdom and undertake a placement at a host organisation for professional development purposes.
- **31 Commonwealth Academic Staff Scholarships.** Candidates for this award are drawn from Higher Education Institutions within certain developing countries.
- **29 Split-site Doctorate Scholarships;** available to those studying for a PhD in developing Commonwealth countries, these scholarships support attendance for one year at a UK university, under the joint supervision of a home country and UK supervisor.

RUN-UP TO CCEM IN CAPE TOWN

The CSFP is one of the only scholarship schemes in the world to be regularly reviewed by a Ministerial conference - a tradition that will be continued when Commonwealth Education Ministers meet in Cape Town in December 2006.

This year's conference will have particular significance - it will be an opportunity to establish the direction of the Plan as it approaches its fiftieth anniversary in 2009. To set the background for the debate, the Commonwealth Secretariat has commissioned a survey of international activity under the Plan, which seems likely to show that the number of countries offering awards is already increasing.

Full details of the Ministers' discussions will be published in the first *Commonwealth Scholarships News* of 2007.

THE COMMISSION HAS MOVED!

The Association of Commonwealth Universities (ACU), where the secretariat of the Commonwealth Scholarship Commission is based, moved office premises at the end of May. The new postal address is: The Commonwealth Scholarship Commission, c/o The Association of Commonwealth Universities, Woburn House, 20 – 24 Tavistock Square, London WC1H 9HF, UK. Telephone (+44 20 7380 6700) and fax numbers (+44 20 7387 2655) remain the same, as do the Commission email addresses.

CSC LAUNCHES NEW AGRICULTURE NETWORK

The Commission is pleased to welcome Paul Smith as the co-ordinator of the latest Professional Network to be launched - the Agriculture and Rural Development Network. The Network will enable scholars and alumni working in these areas to share news and views via the members' posting facility, and Paul's main role will be to produce four e-newsletters a year, the first to be sent out to members on 1st August 2006.

Paul, who completes 38 years in higher education this year, is also the Programme Director (with responsibilities for overall academic management) of the Imperial College London Distance Learning Programme (DLP), based at the Wye campus. Primarily a teacher and curriculum developer at postgraduate level, covering the broad environment and development agenda, Paul has had a growing involvement with distance education since 1972. He has been at Wye for thirteen years, with a remit to develop and manage MSc programmes for continuing professional development, most recently overseeing the launch of an MSc in Sustainable Development in 2005.



Paul Smith in Bahia, NE Brazil 2005, where he has been working on a DFID funded link project with the leading Brazilian NGO Instituto de Pesquisas Ecologicas and the Catholic University of Rio de Janeiro, to develop distance learning materials in biodiversity conservation and management at postgraduate certificate level.

The DLP currently has around 900 students in over 100 countries and operates within the University of London's External System. An important spin-off from this has been Paul's participation in a number of capacity building projects, based upon distance learning pedagogy, across four continents in Mexico, Brazil, South Africa, India, Bangladesh, Malaysia, Hong Kong, Ukraine and Russia. Paul is looking forward to the role of co-ordinating the new professional network for former and current Commonwealth Scholars and Fellows working in the field of agriculture. He hopes that his "broad experience in, and longstanding commitment to adult education and lifelong learning in different cultural environments, will be of relevance to alumni."

The newsletter will cover current news and reports, forthcoming international events and conferences, as well as publications and education. Paul welcomes contributions to the newsletters, which can be sent to agriculture@cscuk.ac.uk. To sign up to the network, please go to <https://secure.acu.ac.uk/cgi-bin/mailman/listinfo/agriculture> and follow the instructions.

SCHOLARS' NEWS

WELCOME DAY 2005

Around 240 scholars and fellows attended the 2005 Commonwealth Scholarship Commission Welcome Day, which was held at Central Hall, Westminster in London, on 14th November 2005. The day began with an introduction to the Commonwealth and Commonwealth Scholarships, following which attendees broke into groups to discuss their programme and meet with Commissioners and CSC and British Council Award Administrators.

In the afternoon, themed sessions led by Commissioners focused on specific areas of relevance to the aims of the awards, such as Brain Drain, Commonwealth and Governance, Education and Development, Health and Technology Transfer.



LEFT: Scholars and fellows from New Zealand with CSC Chair, **Professor Trudy Harpham**, at the 2005 CSC Welcome Day reception.



RIGHT: Participants at the 2005 CSC Welcome Day

FUNDRAISING SUCCESS!

Jessica Murray (Commonwealth Scholar at the University of York) and Janet Peukert (a fellow PhD student at the Centre for Women's Studies), recently organised a fundraising event in support of CAMFED (Campaign for Female Education).

CAMFED is a charity that supports girls in rural areas of Africa to complete primary and secondary education, and then helps school leavers to become the next generation of social and business entrepreneurs. In 2005, CAMFED supported a total of 246,525 children in 1,176 primary and secondary schools within four Commonwealth countries in Sub-Saharan Africa.

The fundraising event took the form of a cheese and wine evening, followed by an art auction, and was held at Bishopthorpe Palace in York on Saturday 13th May. The art auction included around a hundred pieces. Amongst the diverse range of art works was a sculpture (made of Springstone mined in Zimbabwe) entitled "Proud Woman" by Malawian artist Michael Khumalo, an artwork depicting the new Archbishop of York by Dan Savage, and a photographic piece by Julia Gatie, entitled "Mermaid". Entertainment was also provided by a live jazz band.

The evening raised over £5000, all of which will go to CAMFED. Jessica and Janet were thrilled that the evening was a great success: "We raised enough money to support 70 girls through secondary school for one year in Zimbabwe, Zambia, Ghana and Tanzania. We also raised awareness about the

particular challenges facing girls in Africa when it comes to getting an education." For more information about its activities, visit the CAMFED website: <http://www.camfed.org>



A quiet moment in the drawing room of Bishopthorpe Palace. From left: **Amrithesh Singh** (Masters student from India), **Janet Peukert** (co-organiser), **Kit Fan** (PhD student from Hong Kong), and **Jessica Murray**. Amrithesh and Kit helped with event organisation.

SCHOLAR SET TO IMPACT ON TEXTILE INDUSTRY

Shah Billah (Commonwealth Scholarship PhD student in Colour Chemistry at the School of Textiles, Herriot Watt University) has been making research developments that could have a major impact in the textile industry. Reduwan is working on "the molecular modelling, synthesis and application of photochromic dyes on protein and related substrates". The research has

involved synthesizing a number of water-soluble photochromic acid dyes, which can be directly used for the colouration of protein (eg wool, silk, leather) and polyamide (eg nylon) materials, avoiding a more complex process. The dyed materials remain the same as they are before dyeing, but change colour under sunlight or UV light exposure. The research has also helped to develop a method where certain dyed materials show photochromic colour change (from one colour to another), which has generated a great deal of interest in the field of textile colouration.

Heriot-Watt University has filed a patent application on Reduwan's research (water-soluble spirooxazine dyes and their method of application on suitable substrates), and he has presented his research findings at a number of international conferences, including the 4th International Symposium on Photochromic Systems, Molecules and Devices (France, 2004), the American Association of Textile Chemists and Colorists International Conference and Exhibition (USA, 2005), and the XX1st International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry (IUPAC) Symposium on Photochemistry (Japan, 2006).

AWARD FOR ENGINEERING EXCELLENCE

Commonwealth Scholar, Kamal Samanta (PhD in Microwave Engineering at the University of Leeds), has been awarded the Hudswell International Research Award for Engineering Excellence during 2005 by the Institute of Electrical Engineers. The prize is open to students from around the world,

IN YOUR OWN WORDS

and is awarded for excellence in research contributions / achievements by an international doctoral student working in the areas of Electronic, Electrical, Manufacturing or Information Engineering. Kamal received the award for his cutting edge research plan and achievements on design and development of "Cost-effective Multilayer Millimetre-wave Multi-Chip-Module Transceivers" for wideband wireless applications.

Kamal has developed, for the first time, multilayer miniaturised components with a technique that reduces integration time and cost significantly, whilst achieving increased performance. Kamal's technological development could have a significant impact on the manufacture of microwave and millimetre-wave SIP/SOP modules for commercial applications.

Prior to pursuing his doctoral studies, Kamal worked as a Scientist/Engineer in the Receiver and Frequency Generation Group of the Space Application Centre, Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO), India, developing systems for advanced communication/broadcasting satellite payload receivers.



Kamal Samanta,

2002 Commonwealth Scholar and recipient of the 2005 Hudswell International Research Award for Engineering Excellence.

You can send in your news and views for inclusion in *Commonwealth Scholarships News* (or for the news section on the CSFP website) by email: scholarnews@cscuk.org.uk or you can write to:

Scholars' News Editor (CS News)

Commonwealth Scholarship Commission in the United Kingdom
c/o The Association of Commonwealth Universities
Woburn House
20 – 24 Tavistock Square
London WC1H 9HF
UK

RESEARCH AND AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA: AN AGENDA FOR ANIMAL FOOD SAFETY.

Aziwo Niba participated in the inaugural Agriculture Seminar (see "Professional Networks" article on pages 6-7), and is currently undertaking an MPhil in Microbiology/Biotechnology in the School of Biological Sciences at the University of Plymouth. Here, Aziwo discusses his interest and research in the area of food safety and agricultural development, and its relevance for his native Cameroon.

The increasing level of global regulation in the food trade has several implications for African agriculture, especially in the area of agricultural research. In animal agriculture, this global trend is highlighted by a paradigm shift from an emphasis on productive efficiency to one of public security. Considerable concern over the increase in zoonotic diseases (more recently Avian flu crisis) adds credence to this view. This shift is demonstrated in the way advanced food industries are adjusting to consumer driven perceptions on environmental and food safety issues (eg organic bacon). In addition, new regulation by regional bodies such as the European Union's advice on food safety standards, underlines the need for African governments and researchers to review their support to African agriculture in this area.

In animal nutrition, nothing demonstrates this need better than consumer concerns over the use of antibiotic growth promoters (AGP) in animal feeds. This concern is justified by the growing evidence linking the use of AGP in these feeds with bacterial resistance in human therapy. Consequently, the phasing out of in-feed antibiotics means a search for alternatives to maintain productive efficiency and production of safe meat and eggs. Available alternatives include: enhancement of pathogen colonisation resistance in the gut, immune response augmentation and nutritional strategies (eg fermented feeds).

Fermented feed technology enhances the natural defence mechanisms of the animal and can improve gut and host health. This has important implications for food safety and the environment since the provision of biosafe methods of food production will reduce the need for costly drugs to fight enteric diseases and drug resistance. My research is looking at the dynamics of feed fermentation. I will also be using molecular techniques to investigate how this fermentation can be used to steer gut microbial activity and composition towards improved gut health in chickens. This new technology will be useful for

Cameroon which has a teeming population of health conscious consumers. Consequently, it would make future contributions to an industry that is likely to be confronted by increasing consumer influences on new food safety standards. The adoption of this technology by the farming community would result in a smooth transition from routine use of antibiotics in feeds, in case the Government were to pass legislation banning their routine use (as in the EU from January 2006) and other jurisdictions. This is likely to make some impact in the CEMAC sub-region which is looking on Cameroon as its bread basket. I am also hoping to have a direct impact on capacity building and training in Cameroon and the CEMAC sub-region through:

- Student research projects on poultry, pigs and fish at Dschang University
- Networking in research within the region and beyond, and collaborating with NGOs

It is clear that from concerted efforts by all stakeholders at country, regional and international level, African agriculture can achieve a greater impact on both the agenda for food safety in the global economy, and fair trade. African researchers have a key part to play in this agenda through research training, networking, tracking change and initiating policies. Such policies might provide informal foundations on which national or regional bodies can build official policy regarding African agriculture. The new Agricultural Network could add its voice to this claim.



Aziwo Niba, 2005 Commonwealth Scholar from Cameroon.

PROFESSIONAL NETWORKS

INAUGURAL AGRICULTURE SEMINAR



Participants at the Agriculture and International Global Policy seminar, Cumberland Lodge, March 2006.

The first Seminar of the new Commonwealth Scholarship Commission (CSC) Agriculture Network was held at Cumberland Lodge, Windsor Great Park, over the weekend of 24th – 26th March 2006. The event was attended by 15 Commonwealth Scholars and Fellows, as well as members of the Commission and Secretariat staff. Jonathan Kydd, Professor of Agricultural Development Economics, Imperial College, gave the keynote speech on Friday evening, addressing 'The role of agriculture and international regulation in poverty reduction in the least developed economies'. Over the weekend those attending had the opportunity to either present their research, or for those still at an early stage of their studies, to share ideas about how they plan to take their proposals further. Subjects discussed ranged from forestry and fisheries to fertilisers and fermented feed.

Mark Holderness from the Centre for Agriculture and Biosciences International (CABI) spoke about the dissemination of information to those working in agriculture, a topic relevant to all involved in the CSC scheme, who face the

question "how do I put my findings into practice upon returning home?" CSC alumnus Dr Catherine Muthuri (Chairperson of the Botany Department, Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology) was also able to join the weekend's proceedings and share an encouraging account about how she has been able to build upon her academic findings and experience as a split-site doctoral student at the University of Nottingham.

The seminar ran in parallel to the CSC International Global Policy Seminar (see page 7), and the two groups joined together for a discussion about how the Commonwealth can be a driving force for change. The event was felt to be a valuable experience, giving scholars and fellows an opportunity to meet colleagues working in similar areas, and has been followed up by the launch of the electronic Agriculture Network on 1st August 2006. Some participants also had a brief opportunity to meet HRH Queen Elizabeth II after attending a service at the Royal Chapel on Sunday morning.

Andrew Baio, one of the Commonwealth Scholars who attended the Agriculture Seminar, found it provided "both an excellent international and intellectual mix that immensely enriched participants...through the diverse and interesting scholastic/social sessions."

Andrew was particularly interested in Mark Holderness' presentation, which explored the "systems approach" to food production studies, entailing an integration of biophysical/ecological, socio-economic and cultural/political aspects. Andrew says, "There should be greater recognition of the need for connecting the reality of natural order and the events and discourses of the social world to address real world problems..."

"The farmers/fishers in most of the developing world use local knowledge based on experience and culture. The onus on the training for scholars from or intending to work in those parts of the world in food production; must be the application of the system approach."

Andrew, from Sierra Leone, is a PhD student at the Centre for the Economics and Management of Aquatic Resources (CEMARE), Portsmouth Business School, University of Portsmouth.

CSC/ICS GOVERNANCE WORKSHOP

The CSC Governance Network celebrated its first birthday with the second Governance Seminar, held at the Institute of Commonwealth Studies (ICS), London on 11th– 13th March 2006. The seminar, organised by the CSC in association with the ICS, the Commonwealth Secretariat and the Commonwealth Foundation, was attended by 37 award holders, staff from the ACU, ICS and Commissioners, as well as representatives from organisations such as the Commonwealth Policy Studies Unit and the Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative.

Presentations and discussions were organised into six sessions, starting with Governance in the 21st Century Commonwealth, on Saturday afternoon. Other sessions included: The Challenges of Licit and Illicit Resources, Engaging with the Commonwealth, Commerce, Communication and Diplomacy in the Information Age, Strengthening Capacity for Development, and Faith Based Approaches to Accountable Governance. Commonwealth Scholars made presentations of their research in each of the sessions, all of which were concluded with a period of group discussion and questions.

The event was organised to coincide with Commonwealth Day on 13th March, and 35 Commonwealth Scholars and Fellows were able to attend the Observance for Commonwealth Day at Westminster Abbey, in the presence of the Prince of Wales and the Duchess of Cornwall. This was a ceremony which proved memorable for all who attended.

CSC EDUCATION NETWORK RESEARCH COLLOQUIUM



Participants at the CSC Education Network Research Colloquium, University of Nottingham, March 2006.

The second Education Colloquium was held on 16th – 17th March at the University of Nottingham. The event was organised and hosted by Professor John Morgan, Commissioner and Education Network Co-ordinator, and his colleagues at the UNESCO Centre for Comparative Education Research.

Dr Azeem Badroodien (University of Nottingham) put together a varied and interesting programme during which Commonwealth Scholars and Fellows, alongside other PhD researchers, were able to present and discuss their work with colleagues. Topics included The Challenges of E-learning Initiatives in African Universities, The Effects of Gender-Specific Interventions in the Quest for Education for All, Prevailing Interaction Patterns in Pre-Primary Classrooms and Why Public Policy fails to create a Substantial Private Higher Education System in Bangladesh.

COLLABORATING WITH THE COMMONWEALTH

The past year has shown increasing recognition by funding bodies that higher education has an important role to play in fulfilling the international development agenda. Examples of new initiatives and research funding schemes were covered at this one-day conference co-sponsored by The Association of Commonwealth Universities and the Commonwealth Scholarship Commission in the UK, with the aim of providing a concise, yet comprehensive, briefing of current opportunities. The seminar brought together representatives from funding bodies, academics from across the Commonwealth as well as research office and other administrative staff from universities in the UK and overseas. The presenters included staff from organisations such as the British Academy, the Wellcome Trust, the Economic and Social Research Council and the British Council, and the seminar provided information on new and existing funding programmes for collaborative research and fellowships. Links to the conference programme, presentations and the respective websites can be found by going to <http://www.acu.ac.uk/resman> and clicking on events and seminars.

We are hoping to start a Science & Technology Network in the near future, and would welcome expressions of interest from scholars/alumni who would consider joining. We would also like you to suggest useful topics/areas for the new network to cover. We would like to point out that, as this is a broad area, we would prefer the network to tackle areas of relevance to all members (eg communicating with the media, IT issues) rather than being subject-based. Please contact scholarnews@cscuk.org.uk with your views.

SEMINAR ON THE ROLE OF GLOBAL POLICY AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

Cumberland Lodge was also the venue for a seminar on global policy, held alongside the Agriculture seminar over the weekend of 24th – 26th March 2006. Twenty-four Commonwealth Scholars and Fellows attended the seminar, which aimed to explore environmental change, governance, trade and security. The participants discussed practical solutions from the perspective of several different Commonwealth countries.

Daisy Cooper, the Acting Head of the Commonwealth Policy Studies Unit, introduced the theme of International Cooperation and led a discussion on “Picking up the Commonwealth”, considering how the Commonwealth could be used to push the agenda on global issues. The conference also looked at many of these issues more specifically; scholars and fellows gave presentations on a variety of issues, including intellectual property law, ecotourism, global warming, drug trafficking and international technology transfer.

Professor Trudy Harpham, Chair of the Commonwealth Scholarship Commission, encouraged the group to consider the concept of “Good Governance”, which prepared participants for a very enthusiastic panel discussion, which responded to the latest DFID white consultation paper “Eliminating World Poverty”. Four scholars presented their ideas and campaigned for the position of UK Minister for International Development, and much debate was had until the successful candidate finally won the vote!

There are now five electronic Professional Networks, in the areas of Public Health, Education, Governance, Environment and Agriculture. You can sign up for any of these networks, to receive e-newsletters and participate in electronic networking with other members, by visiting the alumni website: <http://www.csfp-online.org/alumni/>

ALUMNI IN ACTION

Alumni Events

HONG KONG SCHOLARS ASSOCIATION

Professor David Johns, one of our Commonwealth Scholarship Commissioners, hosted a cocktail reception for Hong Kong alumni of the Commonwealth Scholarship and Fellowship Plan (CSFP) on 30th November 2005 at The University of Hong Kong. Those attending the event included former Commonwealth award-holders in several countries. Special thanks goes to Professors Ngok Lee and S.W Tam, who provided invaluable assistance with the reception's organisation. Whilst in Hong Kong, Professor Johns also attended a meeting for alumni with medical qualifications, at which a CSFP alumna gave a presentation on the Hong Kong government's plans to restructure health provision in the Special Administrative Region. Professor Johns commented on the successful events: "Many new friendships were created and old ones renewed..."

The Commonwealth Scholarship Commission in the UK is very proud of the warmth and high regard... for the Commission, the UK and UK universities."

MAURITIUS ALUMNI CHAPTER

The Chapter is active and holds regular meetings; its third Annual General Meeting was held in March 2006. The new President of the Chapter is Dr Souda Rosunee, who is Associate Professor in the Textile Department at the University of Mauritius. The Secretary of the Chapter is now Mr Madev Balloo, a former Canadian Commonwealth Scholar.

The Mauritius Chapter can be contacted by email: ukcac@yahoo.com, and the Chapter website can be found at: <http://ukcac-mauritius.tripod.com/>

ALUMNI LIBRARY

We have established an **Alumni Library**, which we hope will become a comprehensive collection of books and journals by all our alumni. So far we have books on topics ranging from microbiology to classical literature. The Alumni Library will play an important part in charting the careers of our alumni, and in our ongoing efforts to raise the profile of the CSFP, thus ensuring its continued success. Please send copies of your publications to the Alumni office:

Jocelyn Law, Alumni Development Officer
Commonwealth Scholarship Commission in the United Kingdom
c/o The Association of Commonwealth Universities
Woburn House
20 - 24 Tavistock Square
London WC1H 9HF
UK

Alumni News

NATIONAL YOUNG LIBRARIAN AWARD



Photograph shows felicitation of **Rajesh Chandrakar** by **Mr. Jagmohan**, Ex-Minister of Culture, Govt. of India at India International Centre, New Delhi on 20th December 2005. **Dr. H K Kaul**, Director, Developing Library Network (DELNET), New Delhi is also seen on the picture.

Rajesh Chandrakar (Commonwealth Professional Fellow at Middlesex University in 2005) has had his work recognised at a national level in India. In December he was the recipient of the "SATKAL Young Librarian Award" for 2005. SATKAL is a trust which promotes the advancement of library professionals; sponsoring students/librarians, as well as producing publications and organising events of professional interest.

During his fellowship, Rajesh studied the academic library system at Middlesex University, and has written a paper in collaboration with his mentor Mr Alan Hopkinson. This has now been published in *Program: Electronic Library and Information Systems*, a peer review online International Journal.

Rajesh is currently Scientific & Technical Officer at the Information and Library Network Centre, UGC Ahmedabad.

FELLOWSHIP AWARD

Dr Md Ayub Hossain, a Split-site Commonwealth Scholar at the University of Newcastle Upon Tyne (2001 - 2002), was awarded an Alexander von Humboldt Fellowship at the Institut für Agrartechnik in Germany. Dr Hossain's area of specialisation is food drying, which is utilised in the reduction of postharvest losses of perishable food products, and can increase the income of rural people in Bangladesh. Dr Hossain found that the facilities and

academic support he received during his year in Newcastle were pivotal to his career development: "With the enriched academic knowledge, I am able to do advanced research in my field...I can help colleagues and students in research and writing scientific reports." As a result, his institute in Bangladesh (Dr Hossain is a Senior Scientific Officer at the Bangladesh Agricultural Research Institute Bangladesh) was happy for him to take up his one-year fellowship in Germany.



Dr Md Ayub Hossain,

2001 Commonwealth Split-site Scholar from Bangladesh.

INVITATION TO WORK ON MALAYSIAN RESEARCH INITIATIVE

Dr Zuraidah Mohd Don, a Commonwealth Fellow at Lancaster University (2003 - 2004), has been invited to take part in a national research initiative in speech and language technology (MIMOS), set up by the Malaysian government.

During her time as a Fellow at Lancaster University, Dr Mohd Don worked on MALEX, a project to create a systematic study of the Malay language. Dr Gerry Knowles, her co-researcher at Lancaster, subsequently collaborated with her further on the project in Malaysia. Dr Mohn Don has expressed her thanks to the Commonwealth Scholarship Commission and Lancaster University for enabling her initial research, as this was instrumental in her being invited to take part in the MIMOS project.

AUSTRALIA ASIA FELLOWSHIP

Dr Munish Puri (Commonwealth Fellow at the University of Oxford, 2003), recently completed an Australia Asia Fellowship Award at the Institute for Molecular Biosciences, University of Queensland, Australia. The one-year fellowship (September 2004 - September 2005) supported research in the area of structural biology of proteins, based on Dr Puri's initial training in the area of protein structure determination during his fellowship at the University of Oxford.

IN YOUR OWN WORDS

IN BRIEF - AWARDS AND CAREER ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dr Krisna Kumar Agarwal (Commonwealth Scholar, PhD in Veterinary Bacteriology, University of Cambridge, 1965) was appointed Managing Director, Chiteri Biotech (P) Ltd, India, in 2005.

Professor APG Amarasinghe (Commonwealth Fellow, University of Exeter, 2002 – 2003) was given the Lifetime Achievement Award by the All India National Integrated Medical Association in 2005.

Professor Ayodele Falase (Medical Scholar, King's College Hospital, 1973) received the Nigerian National Merit Award from the Federal Government of Nigeria in 2005.

Mr George Moss (Commonwealth Scholar, MSc Electronics, University of Southampton, 1967 - 1968 and MBA in Business Administration, Cranfield University, 1975 - 1976) was appointed Chairman of the Public Utilities Commission, Bahamas, in 2005.

Professor Peter Munro (Commonwealth Scholar, PhD in Biochemical Engineering, University College London, 1973 - 1976) was given the Danisco International Dairy Science Award (American Dairy Science Foundation) and RJ Scott Medal, Royal Society of New Zealand, both in 2005.

Dr Lindela Ndlovu (Commonwealth Scholar, MSc Biochemistry, University of Wales Aberystwyth, 1978 - 1980) was appointed Vice Chancellor, National University of Science and Technology, Zimbabwe in 2005.

Professor Theodore Okeahialam (Commonwealth Scholar in Child Health, University of London and University of Liverpool, 1961 – 1963) was awarded the Order of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (National Honour) in 2005.

Professor Michael Omolewa (Commonwealth Fellow, King's College London, 1975 - 1976) was appointed Member, Executive Board of UNESCO, France, in 2005, and also received the UNESCO Gold Award in 2005.

Dr Abba Aliyu Sani (Commonwealth Fellow, School of Oriental and African Studies, 2003 – 2004) was appointed Deputy Vice Chancellor at Gombe State University, Gombe in 2005.

Dr Lianne Woodward (Commonwealth Scholar, PhD in Psychology, University of London, 1988 – 1992) was awarded the Condliffe Memorial Prize (for creative distinction in letters, the fine arts, or the service of humanity) in 2005.

Have you got news of a new senior appointment or national honour or award? Email us at: alumni@cscuk.org.uk if you have news that you want included in this section!

MEASURING IMPACT

Dr Hafiz T A Khan (Commonwealth Fellow, Oxford Institute of Ageing, 2005 – 2006), explains how research undertaken on his fellowship at the University of Oxford could have wide ranging implications for health planning in Bangladesh.

In 2005 I came to study at the Oxford Institute of Ageing, University of Oxford as a Commonwealth Fellow from the Department of Statistics, University of Dhaka, Bangladesh.

My background is that of a statistical demographer and I have substantial teaching and research experience, in Statistics and Demography at the University of Dhaka, Napier University. My research interests lie in the broader areas of global population ageing, particularly the socio-demographic consequences and global attitudes towards ageing and retirement.

During the Fellowship, my principal aim was to investigate the Socio-Demographic and Health Consequences of Ageing in Bangladesh given available sources of information. The current elderly population is about 7.0 million and is expected to increase to about 40.5 million by 2050.

The ageing index shows that, although the numbers of elderly people are increasing, they are not being replaced by the number of children aged below 15 years. There will be more elderly and widowed in an ageing Bangladeshi population; a country where health facilities are already insufficient for the elderly. My study suggests that ageing issues within Bangladesh deserve urgent attention, and should be included in the priority list of the Government's development agenda.

A paper entitled "Age structural transition and population ageing in Bangladesh" has been published in *Generations Review*, the journal of the British Society of Gerontology. A second paper, based on the remaining findings, is nearing completion. Recommendations of the study should help the government to understand the reality of ageing and to take a proper plan of action for the well-being of elderly people in Bangladesh.

There were enormous benefits of working at the Oxford Institute of Ageing (one of the leading research institutions worldwide), such as receiving guidance from senior researchers and the opportunity to attend and participate in seminars within the Social Science Division.

The Commonwealth Scholarship Commission supports Commonwealth universities in many ways; training their academic staff, and enhancing links through British Councils and Governments in order to establish sustainable quality education. Most developing countries have benefited in many ways, directly or indirectly, due to such programmes. I would like to express my gratitude to the Commission for offering me such a fellowship.

KEEP IN TOUCH!

The alumni section of our CSFP website www.csfp-online.org provides an information portal for our alumni. Here you can catch up on the latest news from alumni around the world, join the Professional Networks, view the electronic version of the alumni directory, and update your alumni record.

Please keep us informed of your news, such as significant research or career developments, or news of awards or fellowships (either for *Commonwealth Scholarships News*, or for the news section on the website). Also, let us know if your contact details change. You can get in touch by email: alumni@cscuk.org.uk, or you can write to:

Jocelyn Law, Alumni Development Officer

Commonwealth Scholarship Commission in the United Kingdom
c/o The Association of Commonwealth Universities
Woburn House
20 – 24 Tavistock Square
London WC1H 9HF
UK

ALUMNI PROFILE

Our new ALUMNI PROFILE section begins with a feature on DR CATHERINE MUTHURI (Commonwealth Split-site Scholar at the University of Nottingham, 2001). With the launch of the new Agriculture & Rural Development Network, it is fitting that our first profile looks at the career and achievements of an alumna who has gone on to become the Chairperson of the Botany Department at Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology (JKUAT).

AN EARLY INTEREST IN NATURE

Catherine Muthuri grew up in Kikuyu on the outskirts of Nairobi. Her father, a retired veterinary officer had (and still has) a great interest in indigenous plants. From an early age, he introduced Catherine to various shrubs and their wider uses which sparked her lifelong interest in the natural world.

Whilst at secondary school, Catherine participated in the Kenya National Student Science Congress and was awarded second best overall biology exhibit. This early success, together with Catherine's love of teaching, motivated her to pursue a career as a Biology professor. At Kenyatta University Catherine studied for a BEd in Botany, Zoology and Education. Here, she met her husband Linus, and they both went on to enrol for Masters Degrees. After completing her MSc in Plant Physiology and Biochemistry (also at Kenyatta University) Catherine became employed as an Assistant Lecturer and subsequently Lecturer at JKUAT.

APPLYING FOR THE SPLIT-SITE SCHOLARSHIP

Although Catherine had written a PhD proposal and was already registered at JKUAT, she did not have enough funding to complete the course. Her supervisor, Professor Chin K Ong of ICRAF informed Catherine of the Split-site Doctoral Scholarships administered by the Commonwealth Scholarship Commission in the UK, which could provide her with funding to complete her research work. Professor Ong then introduced Catherine to Professor Colin Black (University of Nottingham), as a student is required to have a supervisor at an institution in the UK. Catherine says, "I then submitted my application and I am very proud to have been offered the Split-site Scholarship." Catherine found the Split-site Scholarship an attractive option as it "is more family friendly, since one is away from home for a shorter period of time."

DURING THE SCHOLARSHIP

Catherine found the flexibility of the Split-site Scholarship particularly useful. "I split my one year scholarship into two visits; three and nine month periods respectively." During her first visit to Nottingham, Catherine was able to utilise the library and laboratory facilities to plan work on her research; she carried out an extensive literature review, and finalised arrangements for field experiments and her work plan. She was able to undertake technical work that was difficult in Kenya, such as calibrating the infra-red gas analysis to ensure the accuracy of the measurements obtained. Catherine also learnt of new methodologies that benefited her work on photosynthetic studies, such as SPAD and chlorophyll fluorescence techniques.

Catherine's second visit helped to progress her PhD research and thesis. She was able to carry out analysis on plant samples that she had brought from her field experiments in Kenya. Catherine also visited the International Centre for Research in Agroforestry in Indonesia for a WaNuLCAS modelling workshop and carried out modelling work on her data set, which went onto form part of her thesis.

FUTURE BENEFITS

Catherine gained many valuable skills during her scholarship: "I sharpened my writing, computing and data analysis skills which enabled me to return home with a complete second draft of my thesis and a clear idea of the publications I was to produce from my thesis." She also appreciated the opportunity to make new contacts. "I developed new contacts with postdoctoral students and staff at Nottingham and with Dr Tracy Lawson of Essex University [and] I learnt how to relate with people from different races and nations, being a team player in an international setting."



Catherine Muthuri, 2001 Commonwealth Split-site Scholar from Kenya.

It is gratifying to impact positively on my students, university, country and the world at large. It is an even greater joy to be in a position to offer solutions to problems affecting our environment and agriculture through a sound understanding of the processes that take place within the plants

Catherine's experience at Nottingham has improved her ability to help students at her home institution: "My stay in the UK has helped me professionally to be a more efficient, dedicated and resourceful supervisor to my undergraduate and postgraduate students. I learnt this from Professor Black, who was available whenever needed, offering the expertise, contacts and assistance." Catherine enjoys both her teaching work and the opportunity to make a wider contribution to society. "I am happy and enjoy being a university lecturer and researcher. It is gratifying to impact positively on my students, university, country and the world at large. It is an even greater joy to be in a position to offer solutions to problems affecting our environment and agriculture through a sound understanding of the processes that take place within the plants."

Since returning from the UK, Catherine has become Chairperson of the Botany Department at JKUAT.

THE VALUE OF THE SPLIT-SITE SCHOLARSHIP

Catherine feels the scholarships are key to providing PhD students with access to high quality facilities. "It offers a unique opportunity for the doctoral student to use laboratory and library facilities that are unavailable in their home settings, thus enabling them to carry out aspects of research work which they would otherwise not have done - thus enriching their outputs." She also believes that the split-site method enables a student to complete their PhD in good time, enhancing their qualifications and career prospects. The ability to foster links between different institutions involved in the split-site scholarships can also have long-lasting benefits. "Split-site Scholarships form a strong basis for collaborative research and establishing linkages with institutions in the UK carrying out a similar research agenda."

Similarly, Catherine believes that the new CSC Agriculture Network will facilitate international linkages and networking. "It is a good platform where scholars can share research findings, ideas and current trends in the area of agriculture, [and can] form a good database of former Commonwealth Scholars working in agriculture related areas."

NEW UNIVERSITY PARTNERSHIPS PROGRAMME



DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIPS
IN HIGHER EDUCATION

The UK Government's Department for International Development (DFID) will invest up to £3 million a year in a new Development Partnerships in Higher Education programme (DelPHE), which will run for a seven year period, from June 2006 to March 2013. The

programme, managed by the British Council, will provide funding for partnerships between Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) working on collaborative activity linked to development goals. Institutions which partner up will work on initiatives for skills development, knowledge sharing, problem solving research and other activities that will contribute towards achieving the Millennium Developmental Goals (MDGs).

Proposals must be led by an HEI in one of DFID's 25 bilateral focus countries (See Figure 1) and must demonstrate the following:

- How will the proposal help HEIs act as catalysts for poverty reduction and sustainable development?
- How will it strengthen the capacity of HEIs to contribute towards the MDGs and promote science and technology related knowledge and skills, in DFID's 25 priority (PSA) countries?

The ACU has a particular role within the DelPHE programme in identifying and encouraging proposals and links between developing country institutions as well as with the Commonwealth Scholarship Commission. For further information please see <http://www.britishcouncil.org/learning-delphe.htm> or contact Rachel Day on r.day@acu.ac.uk

Figure 1: Higher Education Institutions from the following 25 bilateral focus countries are eligible to apply for funding:

Africa: Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

Asia: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Nepal, Pakistan and Vietnam.

USEFUL LINKS:

For information about the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) please see:

<http://www.undp.org/mdg/>

Department for International Development (DFID): <http://www.DFID.gov.uk>

British Council (BC): <http://www.britishcouncil.org>

The Association of Commonwealth Universities (ACU): <http://www.acu.ac.uk>

ADVISERS' MEETING 2006

The Commission's panel of 149 academic advisers plays a very important role in the selection of scholars and fellows coming to the UK. Each application for a scholarship or fellowship in the UK is assessed by an Adviser who gives valuable feedback on the candidate's academic background, their proposed research or course, and on their likely development impact or leadership potential. To date more than 15,500 scholars and fellows have come to the UK and in 2005 some 230 awards were made, with 38 countries represented in the 2005 intake.

The three-yearly Advisers' Meeting took place at the Institute of Commonwealth Studies in London on 17th March 2006 with Advisers joining Commonwealth Scholarship Commission staff and Commissioners. The aims of the meeting were to provide Advisers with an insight into the Commonwealth Scholarship and Fellowship Plan as well as the role of the Commonwealth Scholarship Commission in the UK and update them on latest developments in the Commission. It also served as a valuable source of feedback for the Commission on policy issues. There was an interesting discussion on development impact and the ways in which this can be demonstrated and measured, and how this can differ between subject areas. Many Advisers also expressed an interest in getting involved in alumni work with suggestions that they could be put in touch with alumni when they visited Commonwealth countries.

There were also presentations from scholars which were very well received; Mr Sabelo Dlamini, a Commonwealth Academic Staff Scholar from Swaziland and Mr Ridwanul Hoque, a Commonwealth General Scholar from Bangladesh both gave brief reports on their backgrounds and how they had come to be awarded the scholarship, on their research topics and importantly on their plans for the future and how they propose to contribute to their home country after their return home.

The Commission would like to thank all the members of its current panel of Advisers for their valuable contribution to our work once again in 2006.



*The Institute of Commonwealth Studies;
the venue for the March 2006 Advisers Meeting*

ABOUT THE CSFP...

The Commonwealth Scholarship and Fellowship Plan is one of the oldest and most prestigious schemes of its kind in the world. It was established at the first Conference of Commonwealth Education Ministers in 1959. Since, over 24,000 individuals have held awards, hosted by over twenty countries.

From the outset, the United Kingdom has been the largest single contributor, and over half of the awards have been held here. CSFP awards in the United Kingdom are managed by the Commonwealth Scholarship Commission, a public body established by Act of Parliament. Two government departments fund the Commission; the Department for International Development, which supports awards to developing Commonwealth countries, and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, which supports awards to the remainder of the Commonwealth.

Day to day administration of the Commission is handled by its secretariat, which is based at The Association of Commonwealth Universities. The British Council handles welfare and financial administration, and provides pre-departure advice through its local offices.

At present, the Commission offers six discrete types of award:

- General Scholarships
- Academic Staff Scholarships
- Academic Staff Fellowships
- Split-site Scholarships
- Professional Fellowships
- Distance Learning Scholarships

Further details of current provision and selection procedures can be found on the UK section of the CSFP web site: <http://www.csfp-online.org>

We hope that you have enjoyed this; the first edition of *Commonwealth Scholarships News*. If you have any comments or views on the magazine, or you have a suggestion for a future article (indeed you may be interested in writing one yourself!) please get in touch with the Editorial Team at:

Commonwealth Scholarships News

Commonwealth Scholarship Commission in the United Kingdom
c/o The Association of Commonwealth Universities
Woburn House
20 – 24 Tavistock Square
London WC1H 9HF
UK

DFID Department for
International
Development



Foreign &
Commonwealth Office
London

**The Association
of Commonwealth
Universities**

**BRITISH
COUNCIL**

**Commonwealth Scholarship Commission
in the United Kingdom**

46th Annual Report to the
Secretary of State for International Development
for the year ending 30 September 2005



The new CSC Annual Report, available
online at <http://www.csfp-online.org>