



COMMONWEALTH
SCHOLARSHIPS

NEWS

Promoting learning, development and co-operation

Issue 10
September 2009



Flying the flag for justice in the Commonwealth

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SCHOLARS' NEWS • ALUMNI IN ACTION • NETWORKS AND EVENTS

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Due to the commonality of their shared legal systems, the countries of the Commonwealth have been plugged into a legal 'network' long before networking became a buzzword. In much of the Commonwealth, the upper tiers of the legal profession are filled with lawyers trained in England. I myself was the recipient of a Commonwealth Scholarship to study at the University of Cambridge.

The value of this legal heritage should not be underestimated. Though each country may be unique in culture, history and political ethos, many of the problems that face us are common: transnational crime, corruption, terrorism, to name but a few. The existence of shared principles of law helps tremendously in cooperating to tackle these scourges. It is no coincidence that the three countries of the 10-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) that work most closely together in legal matters are Brunei Darussalam, Malaysia and Singapore – Commonwealth countries which all share the legacy of English law.

The new CSC Legal Network will be an enormous boon to all of us. The common law is no longer fed only from the English courts. Where matters of law, morality and justice are concerned, it is no longer accepted that English norms are automatically to be applied throughout the independent Commonwealth. A network of Commonwealth Scholars and Fellows sharing the legal precedents and experiences of their own countries will inform and enrich us all.

We all grapple with similar legal and societal issues: the balance between rights and responsibilities, the relationship between the state and the individual, the definition of human rights in multi-ethnic, multi-religious, culturally heterogeneous societies, the boundary beyond which the law cannot constrain freedom. The new Legal Network will provide an ideal forum for the discussion of these and other such issues by Scholars from all over the Commonwealth. It is an exciting prospect.



Professor Walter Woon
Attorney-General of Singapore

Professor Walter Woon

Attorney-General of Singapore

Commonwealth Scholar, LLM Law, University of Cambridge, 1982-1983

Commonwealth Scholarships News

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NEWS ROUND-UP

EVALUATION REPORT PUBLISHED

Following the publication of initial findings in November 2008, *Evaluating Commonwealth Scholarships in the United Kingdom: Assessing impact in key priority areas* is now available at www.cscuk.org.uk/csvaluationandmonitoringprogramme.asp



Based on the findings of the 2008 evaluation survey, which had more than 2,200 CSC alumni respondents, the report looks at the specific impact of awards on individuals, institutions and wider society. Together with the *Directory of Commonwealth Scholars and Fellows* (www.cscuk.org.uk/alumni.asp), it provides an invaluable insight into the impact of Commonwealth Scholarships.

PROFILE: DR HILARY PERRATON



Dr Hilary Perraton,
former Deputy Chair of
the CSC

Dr Hilary Perraton became a Commonwealth Scholarship Commissioner in 2002, serving as Deputy Chair of the Commission from June 2004 until the end of his tenure in May 2009. He also served on the Finance and Distance Learning Committees of the Commission.

Currently a Research Associate at the Von Hügel Institute, St Edmund's College, Cambridge, he began his career at London County Council, before moving into education. He worked at the National Extension College and then the International Extension College for 15 years (two of which were spent in Botswana working on international education and distance learning). During this time, he also studied part-time for a doctorate at the Institute of Education.

Hilary worked for ten years in the education directorate of the Commonwealth Secretariat, and

then spent a year and a half at the University of the West Indies. On his return, he set up the International Research Foundation for Open Learning. He moved back into research to write *Learning Abroad: A History of the Commonwealth Scholarship and Fellowship Plan* (see below). He received an honorary fellowship of the Commonwealth of Learning in 2002, and an honorary doctorate from the Open University in 2005.

HISTORY OF THE CSFP PUBLISHED

Learning Abroad: A History of the Commonwealth Scholarship and Fellowship Plan, written by Dr Hilary Perraton to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Plan, was published in June 2009. The book



sets out the narrative of the CSFP from its conception at a Commonwealth ministers' conference. It examines who was selected for

Scholarships, how, and why; and explores the policies of countries offering Scholarships and those receiving them. The experience of Scholars as they studied abroad sheds light both on changing society and the impact of the awards on individuals and countries. Published by Cambridge Scholars Publishing, the book is priced at £39.99.

NEW WEB RESOURCES FOR ALUMNI

The CSC website now has a new alumni section at www.cscuk.org.uk/alumni.asp

The alumni section is divided into three distinct areas: membership benefits and information, the *Directory*, and resources. You can also keep in touch with the Alumni Office through Facebook at www.facebook.com/jocelyn.law1

Starting this year, alumni registration is available online, and Scholars and Fellows coming to the end of their award have recently received an email with details of how to do this. If you haven't yet registered online, or have a specific alumni registration query, please email alumni@cscuk.org.uk

BUCKINGHAM PALACE RECEPTION TO MARK 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE COMMONWEALTH

On 28 April 2009, 20 Commonwealth Scholars attended a reception at Buckingham Palace to mark the 60th anniversary of the modern Commonwealth. The event included a performance of a Commonwealth cantata and a champagne reception, as well as a chance to view examples of art from the Commonwealth and to speak with HM The Queen, members of the Royal Family, High Commissioners and representatives from Commonwealth organisations and bodies.

Ben Irving, Commonwealth Scholar from South Africa, recalls that 'Buckingham Palace was quite an experience. We weren't sure if we would get a chance to meet the Queen but, as we went to listen to the cantata, we were formally introduced. The Queen then moved through the groups and made an effort to talk to everyone – quite a feat. She is



a very impressive person and seemed genuinely interested in what each of the students had to say – even checking that I would have a chance to go home for a holiday during my three years studying in the UK'.



HRH The Duke of Edinburgh talking to **Commonwealth Scholars** at the Buckingham Palace reception

SCHOLARS' NEWS

Strong and sustainable legal systems are fundamental to all democratic societies and can impact on economic and social development. Commonwealth Scholars are playing their part through studies in diverse areas such as human rights, international criminal, environmental and constitutional law.

NEW FORMS OF ACCOUNTABILITY FOR ENVIRONMENTAL REGULATION



Frances Foster-Thorpe,
Commonwealth Scholar from Australia, at the Directory launch reception in April 2009

Australian Commonwealth Scholar Frances Foster-Thorpe (DPhil Legal Research, University of Oxford) is undertaking research into accountability and environmental regulation. 'Environmental regulation is often understood as a collaborative exercise between governments, business and civil society. However, business and civil society actors taking on important roles in implementing, and sometimes making, environmental policy doesn't neatly fit with our conventional government-centred accountability mechanisms. It has therefore been suggested that we need new forms of market and social accountability to complement traditional forms of political and legal accountability. My research focuses on understanding the relationship between conventional and these newly recognised forms of accountability.'

Frances feels that studying in the UK has been invaluable. 'I ultimately intend to return to Australia and contribute to the development of government policy on accountability and environmental issues. However, studying outside of my own country has exposed me to many new ideas and new approaches. Australia inherited many of its governing institutions from the UK and on the surface our political landscape can appear very similar. I have found, however, that stepping outside my own political culture has been the best way to begin to understand its peculiarities. Each country tends to frame its policy debates in specific ways, and examining how other nations approach similar issues can reveal possibilities that are not obvious from inside those debates.'

GUARANTEEING FREEDOM OF THE PRESS IN BANGLADESH

Mohammad Nazmuzzaman Bhuian, Commonwealth Scholar from Bangladesh (PhD Law, School of Oriental and African Studies), is examining freedom of the press in his home country. 'Freedom



Mohammad Bhuian,
Commonwealth Scholar from Bangladesh, at the 2008 Welcome Day

of the press is a spelt-out fundamental right in the Bangladeshi constitution yet, in practice, the media today are faced with legal obstacles which restrict their role in democracy. My research investigates whether these laws and regulations have limited or guaranteed press freedom in Bangladesh, and to what extent the legal limitations are justified in a democracy. The findings are expected to play a persuasive role in encouraging genuine and comprehensive reform of the legal system of Bangladesh.'

Mohammad feels that his Scholarship has not only allowed him to pursue his research at a respected institution, but has also opened his eyes to different international perspectives. 'As the press in England is much more free and vibrant, my Scholarship has given me insight into press freedom from a comparative perspective. As an assistant professor in the Department of Law at the University of Dhaka, I shall be in an appropriate position on my return to disseminate my knowledge among the students and academic community in my country. I plan to publish a book on my thesis once my research is complete, which will be a valuable addition to the existing legal literature of Bangladesh.'

SOCIAL WELFARE RIGHTS IN SOUTH AFRICA

South African Commonwealth Scholar Carol Holness (MSc Human Rights, London School of Economics and Political Science) is studying social security rights in South Africa. 'My interest in human rights law arose during my undergraduate studies at Rhodes University, an institution situated in one of the poorest provinces in South Africa. During this time, I witnessed the immense poverty facing a large number of South Africans and realised how vital social welfare grants are for many households.'

Carol describes her year as a Commonwealth Scholar as 'an amazing experience', both personally and

academically. 'Some of the highlights include meeting the Queen during a CSC conference at Cumberland Lodge, attending the Commonwealth Day Observance at Westminster Abbey, and chatting with Desmond Tutu after a lecture hosted by the British Council. Another key moment was being elected to represent Commonwealth Scholars and Fellows at the Commonwealth People's Forum, to be held in Trinidad and Tobago in November 2009 – an incredible opportunity for me. Once I have completed my Master's, I intend to return to South Africa to complete my articles of clerkship as a candidate attorney and, in the long term, I hope to become more practically involved in human rights work in South Africa.'

TRANSPARENCY, REPRESENTATION AND LEGITIMACY OF THE WTO



Aishah Namukasa,
Commonwealth Scholar from Uganda

As part of her LLM in International Law at the University of Nottingham, Ugandan Commonwealth Scholar Aishah Namukasa is looking at 'the ways in which the World Trade Organization (WTO) could be made more transparent and accountable, including the possibility of closer monitoring and supervision of its activities through NGO and civil society participation. I also consider issues of representation within the WTO, and problems of its legitimacy'.

Aishah describes her Scholarship as a 'worthwhile experience that I would not trade for anything in the world. Nottingham has a huge student community that kept me going through the taxing times of essay writing and exam revision. I have had access to one of the best libraries in the world and have appreciated the advice from the careers centre. I have observed at first-hand the grooming of lawyers that begins right from the first year of British university study, and look forward to seeing the

IN YOUR OWN WORDS

Jason Francis (*Commonwealth Scholar, MA International and Comparative Criminal Justice, University of Leeds*) explains the importance of his dissertation topic – ‘*The International Criminal Court: an investigation of the attitudes of Sudanese and Ugandans*’.

same implemented in my own setting, through the initiation of different career events. One of my fondest memories so far is receiving a Model United Nations Award for Diplomacy under the NGO programme. I am honoured to be a Commonwealth Scholar and I am happy to know that I will be able to contribute to the development of young lawyers when I resume my teaching duties in Uganda.’

HUMAN RIGHTS IN AUSTRALIA – LESSONS FROM THE UK



Jason Pobjoy,
Commonwealth Scholar from Australia

The National Human Rights Consultation currently underway in Australia provided an opportunity for two Australian Commonwealth Scholars to draw on their experiences in the UK to assist in advancing the protection of human rights in Australia. Commonwealth Scholar Jason Pobjoy, an executive committee member of Oxford Pro Bono Publico (OPBP), brought together a group of 12 postgraduate law students and faculty members from the University of Oxford to compose a response to the consultation’s question: how could Australia better protect and promote human rights? Julia Powles, also a current Commonwealth Scholar, formed part of the research team.

The team was supervised by Professor Sandra Fredman, from the University of Oxford, and Professor Cheryl Saunders, from the University of Melbourne. The team was also fortunate to receive assistance from Lord Bingham, former Senior Law Lord, and Professor David Feldman, the first legal adviser to the Joint Committee on Human Rights. Jason and Julia hope that the submission will be a positive contribution to the debate currently taking place in Australia, and that it will ultimately assist in advancing protection of the most vulnerable. A copy of the submission is available at www.law.ox.ac.uk/opbp

In 1989, when Trinidad and Tobago reintroduced the idea of a permanent International Criminal Court (ICC) at the United Nations General Assembly, few gave the initiative, much less the institution, a chance of becoming a reality. However, with state and NGO support since then, the ICC has initiated investigations and trials are ongoing. To date, 32 Commonwealth nations are states parties to the Rome Statute of the ICC, granting the court ‘complementary’ jurisdiction over crimes

of genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity, and crimes of aggression. In addition, one Commonwealth state has referred a ‘situation’ to the court for investigation and prosecution. But is the global court supported by individuals, notably those in conflict societies, in whose interest the institution operates?

Research on the ICC has tended to be legal treatises; however, very little is known about the attitudes of benefactor populations. My research focuses on a comparative analysis of the attitudes of Sudanese and Ugandans towards the ICC. Essentially, this project is an attempt to gauge confidence in the ICC and trial justice to end impunity, deter criminals and prevent the most serious crimes of international concern or, alternatively, to determine whether there is need for a more inclusive and diverse recognition of justice.

Without being in either country to conduct a survey, I have had to utilise internet mediated research (IMR) to recruit participants, administer a questionnaire and collect responses. The research has benefited from access to the CSC-news mailing list and the Commonwealth Scholars’ Facebook group, as well as the generous support of fellow Commonwealth Scholars, to snowball the

questionnaire. While this methodology has its weaknesses, gaining access to participants in both countries has been invaluable, given the impecunious means of graduate research.



Jason Francis, *Commonwealth Scholar from Trinidad and Tobago*

Researching international criminal justice highlights alternative approaches to managing crime and justice domestically. At present, I am on leave from the Trinidad and Tobago Police Service (TTPS) which is in the midst of a transformation, along with other criminal justice institutions in

the country. At the University of Leeds, I have had the opportunity to review the delivery and outcomes of criminal justice policies transnationally and supra-nationally, to critically analyse theories and explanations of crime, and to engage in criminological research. On my return home,

the knowledge gained will allow me to make a meaningful contribution to policing, the criminal justice system, and the rule of law in Trinidad and Tobago and, if called upon, other Caribbean countries.

The knowledge gained will allow me to make a meaningful contribution to policing, the criminal justice system, and the rule of law.

Being in the UK has broadened my horizons in ways that I am sure are not fully manifest in the present, but will be in the years to come. Beyond the didactic environment created by professors who are acknowledged experts in their field, I have benefited from stimulating interaction with other students with myriad cultures and experiences. But this rich, once in a lifetime opportunity has been made possible not only through the support of supervisors and subordinates at the TTPS, a dedicated team at the CSC, and the selfless support of my wife and son. Unfortunately, the suffering of millions of victims of crimes ranging from assault to genocide has allowed me to critically engage and profit from the study of criminal justice internationally.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY CSFP!

Dr John Kirkland reports on Commonwealth Scholarships at the recent CCEM.



*The opening ceremony of the **17th Conference of Commonwealth Education Ministers***

It's official – Commonwealth Scholarships are 50 years old! The anniversary formally got under way when education ministers from across the Commonwealth gathered in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, for the 17th Conference of Commonwealth Education Ministers (CCEM) from 16-18 June 2009. It was at the first Commonwealth education conference, held in Oxford, UK, in July 1959, that the Commonwealth Scholarship and Fellowship Plan (CSFP) had been instigated.

Fittingly, the CSFP maintained a high profile from the first to the last sessions of the week. In his opening welcome, Commonwealth Deputy Secretary-General Ransford Smith referred to the success of the CSFP – '50 glorious years and 25,000 alumni later' – and urged governments to contribute to the anniversary endowment fund, which 'represents the wisest investment in our future, in our values, and in our networks'. Following this, Najib Tun Razak, Prime Minister of Malaysia, presented a £500,000 cheque to Commonwealth Secretary-General Kamallesh Sharma, to launch the endowment fund. On the second day of the CCEM, the CSFP was mentioned in debates on vocational education and social equity, while the accompanying Vice Chancellors' Forum

highlighted the importance of the scheme in its statement to ministers. The final day saw ministers discussing a report on the progress of the CSFP over the past three years, and strong support for the Plan in the final communiqué.

The launch of the anniversary endowment fund, which aims to broaden the base of the CSFP by encouraging more Commonwealth Scholarships in low and middle income countries, was spectacular, with the high-profile announcement by Malaysia followed within two days by announcements of support from Kenya (£315,000) and the United Kingdom (£500,000). A contribution announced in the final session from the Maldives, together with other commitments made in advance of the conference, has now taken the amount raised so far to over £1.6 million.

Introducing the endowment fund, Dr John Kirkland (Executive Secretary of the CSC and Deputy Secretary General of the Association of Commonwealth Universities) said that it could be the single biggest development for the CSFP since its formation. The theme of the appeal – 'Once in a lifetime' – reflects its importance, as well as the

critical role that scholarships can play in the lives of their recipients. As Deputy Secretary-General Smith said in his opening speech, the fund 'is indeed a once in a lifetime opportunity to change not just a young person's life, but the life of a community to which that person returns'.

In announcing his country's contribution, Dr Kilemi Mwiria, Kenyan Assistant Minister of Education, Science and Technology, said that the endowment fund would open new opportunities for students from developed countries to study in the developing world, as well as providing a new channel for south-to-south collaboration. It would also provide an opportunity for countries such as Kenya to demonstrate its areas of excellence in education to an international audience.

Other countries announced increased support for their own CSFP awards. Sri Lanka, which awarded its last Commonwealth Scholarship in 1986, announced that it would once again host two Scholarships. Botswana confirmed that it will host four, while South Africa has also started offering awards since the last CCEM in 2006. Canada had revised its awards over the past three years, and



Najib Tun Razak, Prime Minister of Malaysia, shakes Commonwealth Secretary-General **Kamalesh Sharma's** hand, as he presents a cheque for the CSFP endowment fund

sees scholarships as an element in wider partnership building. The report presented to the conference showed that the total number of award holders in 2007-2008 was 1,837 – the highest ever.

There was evidence, too, that the CSFP is making a wider impact, well beyond individuals. Presenting the results of the recent UK evaluation survey, CSC Chair Professor Tim Unwin noted the significant proportion of award holders who have influenced government thinking, been involved in NGO activity, and held public office. It is also notable that 88% of the survey respondents are still working in their home country.

Commonwealth Scholars themselves were also prominent at the CCEM. The keynote paper, presented on the first day of the conference, was written by Professor Gajaraj Dhanarajan (Commonwealth Scholar, PhD Entomology, Aston University, 1971-1974), former Director of the Commonwealth of Learning, currently Vice-Chancellor of Wawasan Open University in his home country of Malaysia. The paper cited the CSFP as having 'spawned a range of activities upon which were built the basic structures of

higher education in a large number of member states'. Tongan Minister of Education, Dr Tevita Palefau (Commonwealth Scholar to Canada, 2000) championed the cause of access to higher education in the developed world for students from small island states throughout the conference. The Commonwealth Secretariat's work plan for the next three years was presented by Dr Henry Kaluba, (Commonwealth Scholar from Zambia, PhD Education, Institute of Education, 1986-1990), while Bangladesh's support for the scheme was announced by Professor Nazrul Islam, Chair of the University Grants Commission and former Commonwealth Scholar (Medical training in cardiology, University of Edinburgh, 1978-1979).

Alumni also played a significant role in the accompanying Vice Chancellors' Forum – a new innovation at the 17th CCEM, reflecting the increased attention now given to higher education in development circles. The forum, organised jointly by the government of Malaysia and the Association of Commonwealth Universities, attracted almost 200 hundred senior personnel. Its communiqué called for education ministers to

agree that higher education, through teaching and learning, research and knowledge transfer, will make a critical contribution to recovery from the economic recession. The communiqué covered five other themes: commitment to the Millennium Development Goals and to education for all; gender equality of access; the contribution of ICT and open/distance learning (ODL); the role of partnerships; and respect and understanding.

And even when the conference ended, scholarships continued to be a focal point, with a reception hosted by the British High Commissioner for alumni of the Commonwealth and Chevening Scholarship schemes (see page 10). Amongst those attending were two Deputy Vice-Chancellors of the University of Malaya – an institution whose former Vice-Chancellor was a Commonwealth Fellow!

When delegates did eventually leave, they can have been in little doubt about the huge impact that Commonwealth Scholars and Fellows have made – both at the conference and throughout the past 50 years. The enthusiasm for the next half century looks stronger than ever.

ALUMNI IN ACTION

Alumni News

ALUMNUS APPOINTED CENTRAL BANK GOVERNOR



Dr Atiur Rahman,
*Commonwealth Scholar and
Governor of Bangladesh Bank*

Dr Atiur Rahman (Commonwealth Scholar, PhD Economics, School of African and Oriental Studies, 1978-1983) was appointed Governor of Bangladesh Bank on 1 May 2009. Previously, he was a professor in the Department of Development Studies at the University of Dhaka in Bangladesh, and has held a variety of offices spanning his interests in economics, finance and cultural learning.

GLOBAL HEALTH COUNCIL AWARD



Dr Joyce Addo-Atuah,
*Commonwealth Scholar
from Ghana*

Dr Joyce Addo-Atuah (Commonwealth Scholar, MSc Hospital Pharmacy, University of Manchester, 1989-1992) has been awarded a New Investigators in Global Health Award 2009 by the Global Health Council. This prize is awarded to new research investigators on issues of global health importance. Joyce's research examines the factors surrounding access to antiretroviral therapy (ART) for people living with HIV/AIDS in Ghana.

After completing her Commonwealth Scholarship, Joyce returned to her home country of Ghana, where she played a key role in developing clinical pharmacy practice in her hospital. She believes that her Commonwealth Scholarship was a catalyst for 'a fulfilling career which has benefited patients, pharmacy students and practicing pharmacists in Ghana and anglophone West Africa'.

Following work for the World Health Organization in Ghana and a PhD at the University of Tennessee, USA, Joyce is currently an assistant professor of pharmacy and health outcomes at the Touro College of Pharmacy, USA.

POETRY ANTHOLOGY PUBLISHED

Aili McConnon (Commonwealth Scholar, MPhil American Literature, University of Cambridge, 2003-2004) has co-edited a poetry anthology. *Blooming Through the Ashes* features writing about violence and its aftermath, and includes pieces by Seamus Heaney, Toni Morrison and Wole Soyinka, amongst others.

Alumni events

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY MEETS ALUMNI AROUND THE COMMONWEALTH

Dr John Kirkland, Executive Secretary of the CSC, has combined recent overseas meetings with alumni events in a range of countries. While attending the Association of African Universities' general conference in Abuja, Nigeria, he met with a group of alumni over dinner on 6 May 2009, including some who had held CSFP awards in other countries. During a short visit to Botswana, he met with alumni in Gaborone on 25 May. Following the Commonwealth and Chevening alumni reception after the CCEM in Malaysia (see page 10), Dr Kirkland travelled to Singapore, where he met alumni on 19 June. As well as providing enjoyable social occasions, these events also allowed Dr Kirkland to hear news from alumni and discuss future CSFP developments.

Alumni chapters

FIRST CANADIAN CHAPTER MEETING

The nascent Canadian CSC alumni chapter had its inaugural social gathering on 9 May 2009 in Montreal. Although the turnout was small, it enabled those who did attend to get to know each other well. In the coming months, Mike Hunter and Ross Kang (chapter co-ordinators) hope to facilitate further alumni socials in cities across the country and hope that as many alumni as possible will attend. To register for the Canadian alumni chapter and receive emails about upcoming events, visit www.cs.mcgill.ca/~rossk/commonwealth. If you are interested in spearheading an alumni event in your city, email alumni@cscuk.org.uk

NEW AUSTRALIAN CHAPTER

Efforts are underway to establish a CSC alumni chapter in Australia, starting in Melbourne, with potential to expand to other cities. In the first instance, the chapter would provide a means for alumni to meet on a regular basis, with scope to organise a wide range of social and professional networking events, depending on the level of interest.

The first meeting is likely to be held in Melbourne. If you would like to be involved in organising chapter events, or would like to be added to a mailing list to hear about future events, please email Antara Mascarenhas at antara_p_m@hotmail.com

In brief

AWARDS AND CAREER ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dr Sanjay K Agarwal (Commonwealth Fellow, Manchester Royal Infirmary, 1995-1996) has been appointed Head of the Department of Nephrology at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences.

Dr D P Biradar (Commonwealth Fellow, Rothamsted Research (BBSRC), 2004-2005) has been elected a Fellow of the National Academy of Biological Sciences, India, and has also received the Dr A P J Abdul Kalam National Award.

Dr Steven Galbraith (Commonwealth Scholar, DPhil Mathematics, University of Oxford, 1992-1995) has been appointed as a senior lecturer in pure mathematics at the University of Auckland, New Zealand.

Dr S M Mohamed Ismail (Commonwealth Fellow, University of Bradford, 2005-2006) has been appointed Vice-Chancellor of the South Eastern University of Sri Lanka.

Vidyaratha Kissoon (Commonwealth Scholar, BSc Computer Science, University of Birmingham, 1990-1993) has been appointed to the first Rights of the Child Commission in Guyana.

Dr Puseletso Letete (Commonwealth Scholar, PhD Law, University of Edinburgh, 2002-2007) has been appointed as a senior lecturer in mercantile law at the University of South Africa.

Professor Gurumayum Sharma (Commonwealth Fellow, Brunel University, 1989-1990) has been appointed Dean of the School of Sciences at Manipur University, India.

Dr Thelma Kgakgamatso Tlhaselo-Majela (Commonwealth Scholar, PhD Counselling, University of Surrey, 2001-2005) has been appointed Director of Programmes of the Guidance, Counselling, and Youth Development Centre for Africa, based in Malawi.

Professor Mahinda Wijeratne (Commonwealth Fellow, University of Reading, 1994-1995) received the Most Outstanding Scholar 2008 award from the University of Ruhuna, Sri Lanka, where he is a senior professor in the Department of Agricultural Economics.

ALUMNI PROFILE

*In this issue, we look at two alumni from the Caribbean region who are using their expertise in the law to contribute more widely – **Rose-Marie Belle Antoine** in Barbados, and **Peter Maynard** in the Bahamas.*

Professor Rose-Marie Belle Antoine was a Commonwealth Scholar at the University of Oxford, where she studied DPhil Law from 1993-1997. She is now Professor of Labour Law and Offshore Financial Law and Deputy Dean of Outreach and Development at the University of West Indies (UWI) at Cave Hill, Barbados.

From an early age, Rose-Marie recalls that friends and family alike suggested a career in law. She had a keen interest in causes, 'fighting for the underdog and speaking out about issues, not to mention loving a good argument'. Her family, who she thinks of as 'quite progressive and intellectual', encouraged debate on social justice.

Consequently, during her undergraduate law studies, Rose-Marie pursued interests in areas such as labour law, administrative law, international law and human rights law, which continued when she studied for an LLM at the University of Cambridge. Her Commonwealth Scholarship came at a pivotal point in her life. She was considering returning to the Caribbean, and had several interesting job offers. However, the opportunity to study for a doctorate was 'a lifelong dream', and she took up the award, specialising in legal issues in offshore finance.



Rose-Marie Belle Antoine, former Commonwealth Scholar from Trinidad and Tobago

In addition to her post at UWI, Rose-Marie is an attorney-at-law, working and consulting on an international basis. She finds that the two roles complement each other. A recent historic case before the regional Caribbean Court of Justice enabled her to utilise her research expertise, which practising lawyers do not usually have time to develop. In turn, she is able to engage with more practical aspects through her legal work, which gives her academic research greater breadth.

Rose-Marie has experience of juggling several roles at once. Her husband, Dr Kenny Anthony (also a Commonwealth Scholar), was Prime Minister of St Lucia from 1997-2006 and, at the same time as fulfilling the duties of a First Lady, she authored several books, won prestigious awards for research, and engaged actively in university administration. Rose-Marie relishes the opportunity provided by leadership roles to continue with the community and social work that have been important since her youth. And, while the first to admit that she can be an unorthodox leader, she feels that 'senior colleagues have a duty to the institution to help develop it and younger colleagues'.

The international dimension of the Commonwealth Scholarship and Fellowship Plan is very important to Rose-Marie. She appreciates the chance it gives to people from small countries to work with other scholars at leading international universities. She also feels that interaction with people from different countries can help to dispel myths about the abilities of citizens from a given region. 'I have sought to be global in my approach and my books do have an international audience. Perhaps I would not have had the confidence to speak to the world had I not entered the Commonwealth Scholarship family.'

Dr Peter Maynard studied for an LLB at the University of Cambridge from 1977-1979 on his Commonwealth Scholarship, having already studied public international law and economics. Peter was an economist at the United Nations prior to his award and, while he enjoyed the international dimension of his work, his Commonwealth Scholarship helped him embark on his legal career. 'I wanted to be an active participant in the independence and growth of a country rich with promise. My Commonwealth Scholarship allowed me to fulfil a dream of becoming an attorney in the Bahamas, with a broad international practice.'

He continued his interest in public service after his award, when he worked as a legal advisor at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the Bahamas. The role was varied and he advised on all domestic and international legal issues arising in the course of the Ministry's work.



Peter Maynard, former Commonwealth Scholar from the Bahamas

Currently, Peter works as an attorney in the Bahamas. Being an attorney in a small island state has allowed him to cover many areas of the law. He also served as an acting Judge of the Supreme Court from January-October 2007. Fulfilling these two legal roles has also given him an insight into the different ways that the law operates. 'As an attorney, you represent the best interest of your client but, as a judge, you represent the rule of law. A judge has to evaluate both sides of the argument and apply the law when making a decision that is legally correct, fair and not influenced by personal views or bias.'

As well as legal duties, Peter has taught at university-level, and presently teaches at the University of the West Indies campus in the Bahamas. He feels strongly that he can make an important contribution to the community through this work. 'Teaching, practicing law and being a judge give one a wealth of experience and knowledge, each role complementing the other.'

NETWORKS AND EVENTS

For full reports on recent events, visit www.cscuk.org.uk/news/eventreports.asp



Dr John Kirkland (far left) and **Professor Tim Unwin** (second left) chat to guests at the **Commonwealth and Chevening alumni reception**

CSC LEGAL NETWORK LAUNCH

On the weekend of 13-14 June 2009, 30 current Commonwealth Scholars gathered in London for a conference hosted by the CSC in partnership with the Commonwealth Policy Studies Unit (CPSU) to mark the launch of the CSC's Legal Network.

The conference, titled 'The limits and possibilities of the law in a rapidly changing world', was organised around four thematic panels: human rights, rule of law, corporate governance and access to justice. It also gave participants an opportunity to exchange ideas based on their own research and experiences.

The conference opened with a discussion of the implications of globalisation for law as a discipline. This was followed by the human rights panel, with presentations on indigenous rights and international law, and the challenges of a proliferation of laws in a diverse world.

The next panel discussed the rule of law and its implications on the ground. Talks focused on the challenges of access to justice in post-conflict societies, the role of the International Criminal Court Legal Tools Project in enhancing access to justice, and problematising the concept of the rule of law.

The second day opened with the theme of corporate governance, examining the complex relationship between this and human rights law. The conference concluded with the access to justice panel. This included presentations on legal reform of collective redress in England and Europe using lessons from the Commonwealth, sentencing and public perceptions of justice, and the work of the Commonwealth Secretariat in this area. After the panel, a short excerpt from the award-winning documentary 'Sisters in Law' was screened.

COMMONWEALTH AND CHEVENING ALUMNI RECEPTION IN MALAYSIA

On 18 June 2009, more than 50 Malaysia-based Commonwealth Scholars and Chevening Scholars gathered at the Islamic Arts Museum in Kuala Lumpur for a combined alumni event, hosted by the British High Commission and the British Council. They were joined by around 100 guests, including vice-chancellors and representatives from the

CSC and the Commonwealth Foundation.

HE Boyd McCleary, British High Commissioner to Malaysia, extended a warm welcome to all present and said that the event was timed to coincide with the Conference of Commonwealth Education Ministers which had ended earlier on the same day. It was an occasion for a triple celebration – 25 years of the Chevening Scholarship programme, 50 years of the Commonwealth Scholarship and Fellowship Plan, and 75 years of the British Council.

COMMONWEALTH SUMMER YOUTH CONFERENCE

The CPSU, in collaboration with the Commonwealth Secretariat and the CSC, held the Commonwealth Summer Youth Conference at the Institute of Commonwealth Studies on 29 June-1 July 2009. The sixth event of its kind, the conference theme was 'How can we change the world?' Ten current Commonwealth Scholars and Fellows also attended the event, sponsored by the CSC.

The first day began with an introduction to 'Today's Commonwealth', followed by a prolific discussion on international solutions to global challenges such as climate change, the financial crisis and gender inequality. It came to an

end with a parliamentary reception held in the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association UK room in Westminster Hall, where Ransford Smith, Commonwealth Deputy Secretary-General, addressed the participants. He emphasised the role of the Commonwealth in changing the world and also the need for young talented citizens to be represented and to influence relevant policies for a better future.

The second day of the conference looked at 'Campaigning for a better world', initially focusing on the role of the media. Breakout groups then discussed how to make leaders listen to campaigners. The following session critically examined the role of the G20 and also the impact of international diplomacy on small states, spotlighting the special case of St Lucia. The evening session energised participants by providing relevant information and suggestions on how to get a job at an international NGO.

The last day's focus was 'Individual action matters', beginning with a dialogue on climate change. The discussion then continued in a highly interactive session on poverty and development. Participants were delighted to have such a unique opportunity to contribute to debates on burning issues and also to develop friendships and networks, which are crucial to global citizens' efforts to change the world.



Commonwealth Scholar **Samuel du Rand** hits a shot at the 7th annual **Commonwealth vs Rhodes Scholars cricket match**, held on 18 July 2009 at the University of Oxford. Despite a fierce effort from the Commonwealth side in the field, they never recovered from the loss of some early wickets against some menacing opening bowling by Rhodes. Rhodes won with 5 wickets to spare, taking the lead in the overall head-to-head standings: four wins to the Commonwealth's three. After the match, both teams celebrated together with visitors from Oxford and around the country at the Commonwealth Scholarship Commission-hosted barbecue. The full match report is available at www.cscuk.org.uk/news/2009CommonwealthvsRhodescricketmatch.asp

COUNTRY PROFILE – CANADA

AWARDS OFFERED

Commonwealth Scholarships in Canada are funded by the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (DFAIT), and administered by the Canadian Bureau for International Education (CBIE).

From 1960 to 2006, Commonwealth Scholarships were granted with a view to obtaining a full degree. Changes in 1995 made Scholarships available for one postgraduate degree only. A new one-year research Scholarship was also introduced.

In 2007, the Canadian government reconfigured its different scholarship programmes to address foreign policy priorities and to increase access. Canada now offers short-term awards, providing award holders with access to resources and the opportunity to form networks, and also fostering institutional links to promote greater collaboration in academia and research, which contributes to longer-term relationship building.

Awards currently available include:

- **Post-Doctoral Research Fellowships:** 12 months' duration; for New Zealand and UK citizens.
- **Graduate Student Exchanges:** six months' research; for citizens of countries in Asia, Africa and the Pacific.*
- **Canada-CARICOM Leadership Scholarships:** four months' study at undergraduate level, or 5-6 months' research at postgraduate level; for citizens of Caribbean countries.*
- **Canada-CARICOM Split Site Scholarships (pilot):** 18-month awards to promote interregional collaboration and provide students with an international education experience; for citizens of Caribbean countries.*
- **Canada-CARICOM Virtual University Scholarships (pilot):** Six selected certificate programmes delivered entirely by distance learning; for citizens of Caribbean countries.*

SELECTION PROCESS

An independent selection committee comprised of university professors reviews, shortlists and selects candidates.

Canada is one of the most long-standing contributors to the CSFP. In fact, the very idea of a Commonwealth scholarship programme came from a Canadian citizen – Sidney Smith, Secretary of State for External Affairs – in 1958.



Niagara Falls

Selection criteria are:

- academic achievement
- study plan: includes the academic programme that the candidate wishes to pursue; the rationale for the country, institution and supervisor proposed; major work that the candidate wishes to pursue; and how the proposed programme relates to the candidate's future career
- support provided by three letters of recommendation
- initiative, community involvement, leadership qualities and/or potential

For selection of Post-Doctoral Research Fellows, the following guidelines also apply:

- proposed research: evaluation based on quality and methodology of proposed research; relevance of doing research in Canada; and how the research will enhance the candidate's future career
- candidate's aptitude
- interpersonal and leadership abilities

ALUMNI PROFILES

CSFP alumni who have studied in Canada include:

- **Nandasiri Jasentuliyana**, President of the International Institute of Space Law
- **Dr Akbar Ali Khan**, former Finance Secretary of Bangladesh and Alternative Executive Director of the World Bank
- **Dame Calliopa Pearllette Louisy**, Governor-General of St Lucia
- **Clyde Mascoll**, former Senator and Minister of Finance of Barbados

- **Dr Mohammed Munavwar**, former Attorney General of the Maldives
- **Dr Tevita Palefau**, Minister of Education of Tonga

Canadians have held Commonwealth Scholarships in Australia, Fiji, Ghana, India, New Zealand, Sri Lanka and the UK. Alumni who have studied in the UK include:

- **Asheesh Advani**, President and CEO of Virgin Money USA
- **Peter Boehm**, Canadian Ambassador to Germany
- **Mark Carney**, Governor of the Bank of Canada
- **Edward Greenspon**, former Editor-in-Chief of *The Globe and Mail*, Canada
- **Kevin Lynch**, former Clerk of the Privy Council and Secretary to the Cabinet, Canada

Sir George Bain, former Vice-Chancellor of Queen's University, Belfast and Principal of the London Business School, says 'My Commonwealth Scholarship changed the whole course of my career and my life. When I arrived in Oxford, I intended to do a degree in labour economics and then return to Canada to become a labour lawyer and a politician. Instead, I took a doctorate in industrial relations, remained in the UK, and pursued a career as an academic, university president, and chairman of various government inquiries and commissions. None of this would have happened without my Scholarship, which opened my eyes to new opportunities and gave me the intellectual resources to pursue them'.



The Commonwealth Scholarship Commission in the United Kingdom (CSC) is responsible for managing Britain's contribution to the Commonwealth Scholarship and Fellowship Plan (CSFP).

The CSC supports around 750 awards annually. Awards are funded by the Department for International Development (for developing Commonwealth countries) and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills in partnership with UK universities (for developed Commonwealth countries). The CSC also nominates UK citizens for scholarships to study in other Commonwealth countries under the CSFP.

The CSC makes available seven types of award:

- Scholarships for PhD research
- Scholarships for Master's study
- Shared Scholarships with UK universities in support of Master's programmes
- Academic Fellowships for staff serving in developing country universities
- Split-site Scholarships for PhD students to spend up to one year in the UK
- Professional Fellowships for mid-career professionals in developing countries
- Distance Learning Scholarships for developing country students to study UK Master's degree courses while living in their own countries

The CSC is a non-departmental public body in its own right, and members are appointed in line with the Code of Practice of the Office of the Commissioner for Public Appointments. The Commission's secretariat is provided by the Association of Commonwealth Universities; financial management and welfare support for scholars is provided by the British Council.

The CSFP is an international programme under which member governments offer scholarships and fellowships to citizens of other Commonwealth countries. The Plan was established at the first Commonwealth education conference in 1959 and is reviewed by ministers at their triennial meetings – the only scholarship scheme in the world to receive such high-level recognition.

www.cscuk.org.uk