



COMMONWEALTH
SCHOLARSHIPS

NEWS

Promoting learning, development and co-operation

Issue 7
September 2008

Celebrating 50 years of achievement



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Commonwealth Scholarships News

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Commonwealth Scholarships News is published three times a year by the Commonwealth Scholarship Commission in the United Kingdom.

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The Commonwealth Scholarship and Fellowship Plan – or CSFP, as we have come to know it – is 50. I congratulate one and all who have been, are and will be involved in this exceptional programme of intellectual and social exchange.

The CSFP's half-century statistics are impressive enough, with over 25,000 Scholars and Fellows to its name. Some are household names: pre-eminent in politics, academe, business, and more. Yet all are richly talented people who have bettered their societies and the Commonwealth.

Perhaps, though, the value of the CSFP lies in something less quantifiable – in the promotion of excellence, the sharing of knowledge, and the deepening of bonds. The academic quality of the awards has been independently and objectively verified, and the level of goodwill towards the Plan is immense.

2009 sees the Commonwealth celebrate the 50th anniversary of the first Conference of Commonwealth Education

Ministers at Oxford in 1959. It was at that meeting that the CSFP was established. Education Ministers will meet again, for the 17th time, in Kuala Lumpur in June next year. Many of our efforts next year will go towards launching a 50th anniversary CSFP Endowment Fund, with the special aim of widening the programme, from south-to-north to south-to-south and north-to-south Scholarships (see page 10 for more details).

So the CSFP is as flexible and dynamic as the Commonwealth of which it is a part – a Commonwealth which, by coincidence, celebrates its 60th birthday next year. From golden to diamond anniversaries, precious metals are to be treasured. Their value is timeless.

I welcome you to this 50th anniversary of issue of *Commonwealth Scholarships News*.

Kamalesh Sharma

Commonwealth Secretary General

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Kamalesh Sharma

Commonwealth Secretary General



NEWS ROUND-UP

DEPARTING COMMISSIONERS

We would like to thank the following Commissioners, who have recently finished their terms of office, for all their work and commitment to the CSC.

- Professor Sharon Huttly
- Professor David Johns
- Professor John Morgan
- Professor Tim Shaw
- Professor Gurharpal Singh
- Professor Martin Snaith

CSC BRIEFING IN OTTAWA

A reception was held on 7 May 2008 in Ottawa for alumni and newly selected 2008 Canadian Commonwealth Scholars. The event was jointly organised by the CSC and the Canadian Bureau for International Education (CBIE). Remarks were made by representatives of Foreign Affairs and International Trade Canada (DFAIT) as well as the Hon Noël Kinsella (Speaker of the Senate of Canada), Dr John Kirkland (Executive Secretary of the CSC), Jim Fox (President of CBIE) and Jennifer Humphries (Vice-President, Membership and Scholarships of CBIE).

The future of Commonwealth Scholarships between Canada and the UK is uncertain, following the recent announcement by the UK Foreign Secretary that, beginning next year, Britain's awards will be concentrated on the developing Commonwealth. However, the reception was a celebration of the CSFP's achievements, as the quality of guests and alumni in attendance showed that leadership skills, as well as diplomatic and personal connections, are an important benefit of the CSFP.

PROFESSIONAL FELLOWSHIPS LINK NORTHERN IRELAND AND MALAWI

Coleraine Borough Council in Northern Ireland has cemented links with a similar-sized council in Zomba, Malawi, through the Professional Fellowships scheme. In the past five years, two members of the Zomba council have been able to spend a three-month period at Coleraine, and a third Fellowship will commence in September 2008. Paul Snelling, Head of Administrative Services at Coleraine, said 'The Fellowships underpin our connection by enabling personal relationships to develop between our two councils. The 150 staff in our Council HQ have been made aware of developing world issues through the contact with our Malawian colleagues, and we are able to follow up the Fellowship with practical help'.



The victorious Commonwealth XI!

COMMONWEALTH VS RHODES CRICKET MATCH

The 6th annual Commonwealth vs Rhodes cricket match was held at the University of Oxford on 19 July 2008. Commonwealth Scholars and their families came from around the country to play or watch, and were joined by members of the Commission and its secretariat. A great day, as they say, was had by all – made even more so by the narrow victory snatched by the Commonwealth side, who scored 161 runs with 1 over to spare, against Rhodes' total of 160 runs all out.

After the game, the formalities were conducted by Dr John Kirkland, Executive Secretary of the CSC, who handed the trophy over to the losing Rhodes side, as is the custom. The day then concluded with the traditional barbeque and drinks, where both teams put aside their differences and enjoyed themselves long into the night. Thanks must go to the CSC and Rhodes House for their generous funding of the day's events, to Anna O'Flynn of the CSC secretariat for organising the day, to David Hughes, captain of the Commonwealth XI, for all his hard work, and to the players of both teams. The full match report by David is available online at www.cscuk.org.uk/news/2008CommonwealthvsRhodescricketmatch.asp

CALL FOR MENTORS

AuthorAID is looking for experienced academics with a proven publications record to act as mentors – in particular, senior researchers from different countries who will then team up with early career researchers to mentor them through the publication process. AuthorAID is based at the International Network for the Availability of Scientific Publications

(INASP). For more details visit www.authoraid.info or contact authoraid@inasp.info

CSC-DELPE LINK

Uzebba Kanu, a lecturer in the Geography Department at Fourah Bay College, Sierra Leone, has been awarded a Commonwealth Split-site Scholarship and will spend 12 months of her PhD at the Institute for Development Policy and Management at the University of Manchester from September 2008. Uzebba's research into sustainable forestry management in Sierra Leone relates to her work as a project partner in the college's Development Partnerships in Higher Education (DelPHE) collaboration with the University of Manchester. DelPHE, an HE funding scheme for partnerships that address local development issues, is run by the British Council with the support of the ACU.



*The Royal Commonwealth Society in partnership with the Council for Education in the Commonwealth held a protest meeting on 10 July 2008 to draw attention to the campaign against the recent announcement of the end of FCO funding for UK Commonwealth Scholarships to developed countries. Speakers included (l-r) **Germaine Greer**, former Commonwealth Scholar from Australia, **Professor Tim Unwin**, Chair Designate of the CSC, **Alastair Niven**, former Commonwealth Scholar to Ghana, and **Sir George Bain**, former Commonwealth Scholar from Canada.*

SCHOLARS' NEWS

As we approach our 50th Anniversary, we asked five current Scholars to reflect on their experiences so far: **Luke Lazarus Arnold** (from Australia, LLM in Law, Development and Governance, School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London), **Halimah DeShong** (from St Vincent and the Grenadines, PhD in the Sociology of Gender and Violence, University of Manchester), **Nutan Gupta** (Split-site Scholar from India, PhD in Forest Ecology and Environment, University of Ulster), **Patricia Mwebaze-Songa** (from Uganda, MSc in Public Health, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, University of London) and **Phero Karen Kgomotso** (from Botswana, DPhil in Development Studies, Institute of Development Studies, University of Sussex).

WHAT MEMORABLE EXPERIENCES HAVE YOU HAD AS A COMMONWEALTH SCHOLAR?

For Luke Arnold, academic experiences stand out. 'In one of my classes, my lecturer said he wanted to discuss case studies from Tanzania, Pakistan and Nigeria and asked if there were any people in the class from any of those countries. Within a couple of minutes we had established that the class had students from all three, each of whom was able to give a first-hand account of the subject matter!'

Nutan Gupta says, 'The experience I value the most is the research training credits (RTCs), which all PhD students have to undertake during their degree programme but were not compulsory for me as a split-site student. I soon realised that they are very helpful in building up research abilities. This was something different which I don't have in my country and hence I attended many RTCs to benefit from them.'

'This might sound small to other people, but my most memorable experience so far has been presenting my research ideas to a panel of other research students and academic experts in my field of study', says Phero Kgomotso. 'I received an overwhelmingly positive response and recognition that confirmed to me that my dream of graduating was not far-fetched after all!'

Halimah DeShong has made the most of opportunities for extra-curricular activities. 'While I treasure the vibrant academic culture here, my most memorable experience so far has been playing in the England Netball Super League for Northern Thunder, the team from the North West. Playing in this and the British Universities Sports Association (BUSA) competitions has given me the chance to learn so much more about the UK and its people.'

Patricia Mwebaze-Songa has found the entire experience memorable! 'The richness and depth of knowledge I have attained is one of my highlights. I also enjoyed learning about English history and culture. The support and advice I received from my

award administrators (at the British Council and the secretariat) when I gave birth to my daughter stands out as very memorable because I have been able to both complete and excel at my studies.'

WHAT HAS YOUR COMMONWEALTH SCHOLARSHIP MEANT TO YOU?

Phero says, 'To me, receiving a Commonwealth Scholarship is a once in a lifetime opportunity that I cannot put a price on. Through this prestigious scholarship, I have been given the opportunity to pursue a programme of study of my choice at one of the most reputable academic institutions in the world.'

Patricia agrees: 'It had always been a dream for me to do my postgraduate study at the renowned London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. And so, after failing at various attempts to get funding, I was thrilled when I was awarded the Commonwealth Scholarship which turned this dream into a reality. I regard this award as a privilege since it has allowed people like me from humble backgrounds to benefit immensely from the British education system.'

Luke feels that 'Being awarded a Commonwealth Scholarship has enabled me to gain extensive comparative knowledge about the role of law in development, which will no doubt support my efforts to act as a bridge between Australia and Asia. The opportunity has also allowed me to live in London for a year and gain all that comes with that – making friends and contacts from all over the world, listening to amazing speakers and of course gaining a newfound appreciation for the so-called "bad" weather in my home city of Melbourne!'

Nutan is of a similar opinion: 'The Commonwealth Scholarship means a lot to me. It has given my CV a good weight and hence I have an advantage over other applicants for jobs. I have learnt new techniques which have given me good results and will enhance the quality of my PhD thesis. But there is one drawback: being a Split-site Scholar, I don't get a degree or certificate from the UK.'

'It is both a privilege and an honour to have been awarded a Commonwealth Scholarship,' says Halimah. 'There is a dearth of research on the socio-historical condition of St Vincent and the Grenadines and other Eastern Caribbean nations. My Commonwealth Scholarship means that I am better equipped to join the efforts to redress this situation.'

WHAT DO YOU HOPE TO DO AFTER YOUR STUDIES IN THE UK?

All the Scholars hope to put the skills they have learnt into practice upon returning to their home countries. For Nutan, this means making 'a contribution to the field of environmental biotechnology and providing industries with alternative methods for treatment of effluents'. Luke plans on 'making a meaningful contribution to Australia's engagement with its Asian neighbours, particularly in the field of law'.

Halimah's desire is 'to return to the University of the West Indies and continue in my career as a researcher in the field of gender and identity politics in the Eastern Caribbean. My hope is to become more involved in activism that seeks to end all forms of violence against women'.

Patricia says, 'I plan to return to Uganda, where I hope to contribute positively towards capacity building and strengthening of health services for the delivery of effective HIV prevention and care for the most vulnerable populations'.

Phero is also enthusiastic about her contribution to her country's future. 'I plan to go back to Botswana and contribute towards the design and implementation of sustainable environmental programmes and capacity building in the field of environmental policy. I would like to see my country continue to uphold the principles of good environmental governance and the protection of the interests of those communities who derive livelihood opportunities from the direct use of natural resources, and I intend to contribute to the realisation of this goal'.

5 years of COMMONWEALTH SCHOLARSHIPS

Alexander V F G D'Silva, a former teacher in Tanganyika (now Tanzania), realised a boyhood ambition when he received a Commonwealth Scholarship to study Chemical Engineering at the University of Sydney. He was one of the first Commonwealth Scholars and started his four-year course in 1960. Here, he is pictured in his third year, solving a problem with the aid of an electronic computer in the Department of Chemical Engineering at the University of Sydney.



Source: National Archives of Australia: A1507, A4558/1

THE CHANGING FACE OF COMMONWEALTH SCHOLARSHIPS

Commonwealth Scholarships look very different today compared to fifty years ago, but their purpose and ideals remain very much intact. John Kirkland looks at some of the main changes, and wonders what the Plan's founders would think of it now.

When establishing the Commonwealth Scholarship and Fellowship Plan in 1959, education ministers were making a statement about the nature of Commonwealth collaboration. The Plan, they decided, should be distinct from, and additional to, any other schemes on offer, reflecting the distinct values and presence of the Commonwealth itself. The selection process should be a partnership between home and host countries, reflecting the notion of a community of independent nations, each being best placed to know its own needs. Even the choice of scholarships as the form of collaboration said something about the Commonwealth. The investment in individuals through scholarships is a relatively long-term one – the Commonwealth intended to be around to see the benefits.

At the same time, the founders realised that needs would change. The third of the five 'founding principles' stated that 'the nature of awards should be flexible, to take account of changing needs'. They couldn't have been more right. In 1959, higher education was open to only a small elite, few students travelled internationally, and those who did paid only nominal fees. International communication was confined to letters and very occasional telephone calls. The dominant form of postgraduate education was the doctorate, with one-year Masters' courses in their infancy.

This landscape has changed radically over the intervening period, and Commonwealth Scholarships have changed along with it. Not all this change has been for the better. The rapid decline in African higher education during the 1980s and 1990s led to a halt in awards from the region which is only now being reversed. It was the decision to introduce full-cost tuition fees, rather than any greater desire to increase access to higher education, that led the UK to increase numbers during the 1980s. More controversially, some lament the fact that scholarships throughout the world have become more an instrument of government policy – whether in international development or foreign affairs – rather than purely a means of helping talented and deserving

individuals. Others will question the more vocational, rather than academic, nature of provision, as the range of one-year Masters' and distance learning courses has increased.

It is striking that the pace of the change has accelerated over time. Despite the changes described above, Commonwealth Scholarships offered by the UK in 1999 would have been recognisable forty years earlier – a well tried and tested combination of traditional scholarships and mid-career fellowships. Changes since then have reflected both new opportunities and increased interest from government.

1998 saw the first introduction of Commonwealth Split-site Scholarships, reflecting the new opportunities for collaboration between developed and developing country universities. At about the same time, Canada decided to experiment with Distance Learning Scholarships, again harnessing new forms of communication. Two years later, the United Kingdom consulted other countries in the Plan about future provision, revealing high demand for one-year Masters' courses. 2003 saw the introduction of Distance Learning Scholarships in the UK, and a new form of 'Professional Fellowship', bringing the opportunity of short-term, highly focussed periods of career development to those in key development occupations outside the academic sector. Both were in response to the requirement of the UK Department for International Development (DFID) that the scheme take on a more explicitly development role. More recently, Canada has introduced a new form of undergraduate award, reflecting the increased role of study abroad programmes in student mobility. New Zealand, by contrast, has expanded provision for doctoral students, reflecting their national policy of attracting the best talent at that level.

The Plan requires national governments to make decisions on whether and what type of Commonwealth Scholarships to offer and this has helped, rather than hindered, this process. It has provided flexibility and diversity, and probably generated greater commitment amongst the larger

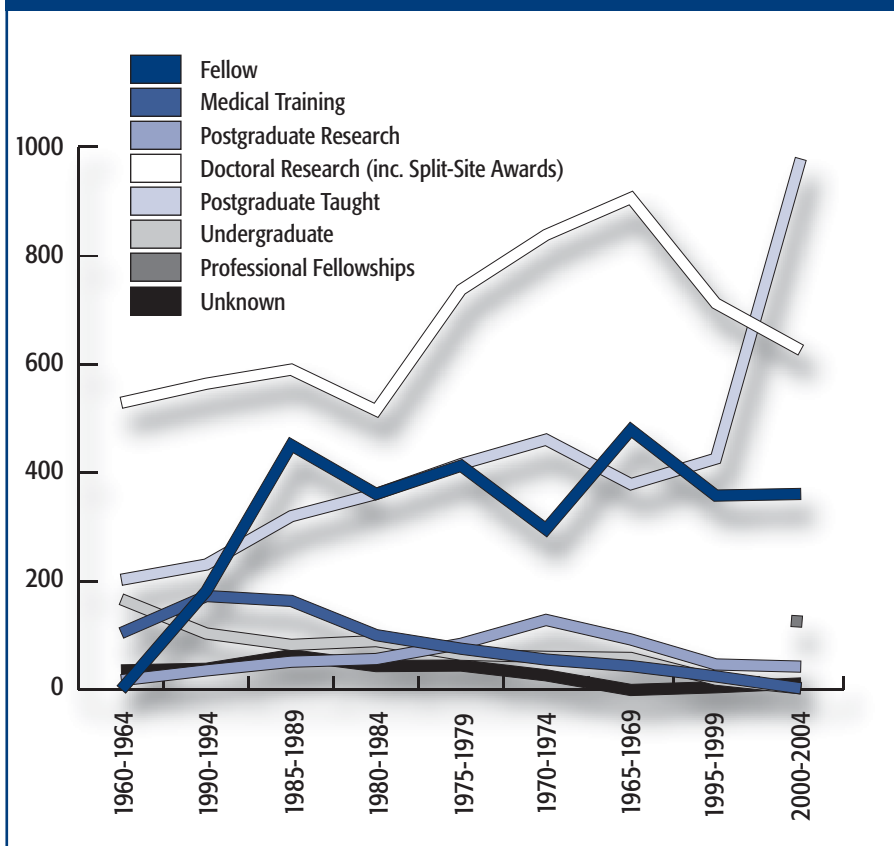
hosts than would have been achieved through contributions to a single, central fund. This might not be true, however, of smaller countries who increasingly have the capability to host awards, but are sometimes put off by the perceived need to create new structures to do so. The proposed anniversary endowment, described on page 10, will allow the Plan to have the best of both worlds in future – and at the same time become the most international scholarship programme on the planet.

Increased accountability is a common theme amongst many of these changes. Not unreasonably, the national governments that finance the scheme have started to take a greater interest in its products, as evidenced by the rise in alumni and evaluation activity. Far from threatening the future of Commonwealth Scholarships, the results of such work seem to be securing it. The evidence suggests that, although the nature of awards have varied, the capacity of Commonwealth Scholarships and Fellowships to produce high quality alumni, who return to take leading roles in their own countries, has been constant.

In short, Commonwealth Scholarships have stood the test of time. The precise means of delivery may have changed, but the focus on mutual cooperation, the sharing of educational experience and the emphasis on the highest level of intellectual achievement – all part of the 1959 principles – remain. So have the structures of bilateral partnership, whilst the participation of individual countries, far from undermining Commonwealth principles, has allowed the scheme to maintain its relevance and flexibility.

The next test of this durability will come in 2009, when Commonwealth education ministers review the Plan as they have done every three years since its establishment. It is a sign of its success that, far from considering whether Commonwealth Scholarships have any future in the modern world, the talk is all of how the Plan can be expanded. The world may be changing, but the need for talent remains as strong as ever.

FIGURE 1: LEVEL OF STUDY 1960-2004



KEY:

GS – Commonwealth Scholarships: Available for postgraduate study at any UK university. Candidates apply in the first instance to the national nominating agency of their resident country. Additional nominations are sought each year from developing country universities (termed Academic Staff Scholarships) and other sources. This group also includes Medical Scholarships offered between 1962 and 1995 to candidates with basic medical or dental qualifications, to enable them to pursue a higher professional qualification or advanced clinical training. These awards were merged with general Commonwealth Scholarships in 1996.

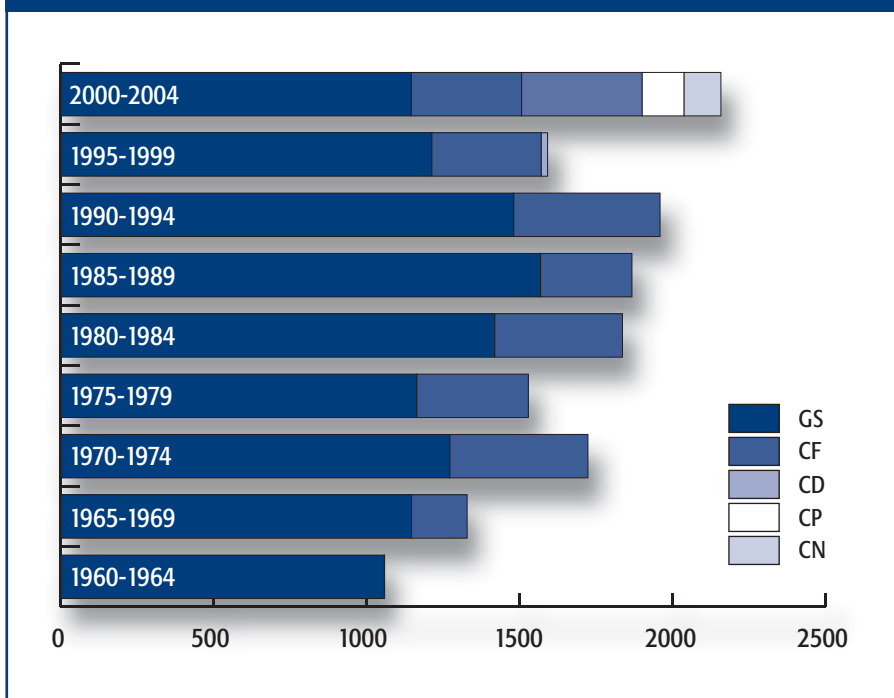
CF – Commonwealth Academic Fellowships: These awards are targeted to specific countries. They are aimed at mid-career staff in developing country universities, and provide for up to six months' work at a UK institution. Nominations are made directly from the universities and the countries concerned. This group also includes Medical Fellowships offered between 1960 and 1995 for clinical and/or research experience at an advanced level in the candidate's field of specialisation. These awards were merged with Commonwealth Academic Fellowships in 1996.

CD – Commonwealth Distance Learning Scholarships: These awards allow developing country students to secure Master's-level qualifications from UK institutions through distance learning study. The scholarships are only available for specific courses selected by the Commission on the basis of their quality and relevance to development. UK universities are invited to register an expression of interest for the Commission to support their course.

CP – Commonwealth Professional Fellowships: Since their instigation in 2003, Professional Fellowships have offered mid-career professionals from developing Commonwealth countries an opportunity to spend a period (typically three months) with a UK host organisation working in a relevant field. Applications are invited each year from UK organisations that wish to host such awards – these can be from any sector, although the recipients of awards must not hold a full-time academic position.

CN – Commonwealth Split-site Scholarships: These awards support candidates who are undertaking doctoral study at a university in their home country to spend up to one year at a UK university as part of their academic work. Nominations for awards are accepted from developing country universities and from national nominating agencies.

FIGURE 2: RANGE OF AWARDS 1960-2004



EVALUATING OUR IMPACT

As reported in previous editions of Commonwealth Scholarships News, the CSC is undertaking an extensive evaluation programme aimed at assessing the impact of its Scholarships and Fellowships. Here, Rachel Day reports on progress to date.

Higher education is now receiving greater attention within development policy, with organisations across the globe recognising that investment in tertiary education is vital if the Millennium Development Goals and other targets are to be met. At the same time, the internationalisation of higher education is reflected in part by ever-increasing academic mobility, with large numbers of university staff and students moving across borders for short- or long-term periods of study, teaching and collaboration.

Within this context, international scholarship and fellowship programmes now form a key part of both development support and attempts to enhance and encourage international relations as well as international collaboration and research. But how successful are these programmes? Can they really enhance economic and social development? Do they promote better international cooperation? How much impact can scholarship and fellowship programmes really have? The Commonwealth Scholarship Commission, having funded over 16,000 scholars and fellows since 1959, is now seeking to provide some answers to these questions in the context of its own awards, through the establishment of its own evaluation programme.

The starting point for the evaluation programme was a workshop held at Cumberland Lodge, Windsor, UK, in May 2007. As reported in Issue 4 of *Commonwealth Scholarships News*, the participants at the workshop, ranging from Commonwealth Scholars and Fellows to representatives from national nominating agencies as well as organisations including the Netherlands Organisation for International Cooperation in Higher Education (NUFFIC) and the World Bank Institute, drew up guidelines leading to the design of a three-stage programme, which commenced in September 2007.

The first stage involved building on the database already held in order to establish a sound, robust source of empirical data as well as identify a core set of indicators. The second stage, currently well underway, involves the collection of qualitative and quantitative data through the design and distribution of a survey and the publication of a preliminary report. The third stage of the programme will examine impact in more detail, focussing on key areas and sectors,

such as agriculture and higher education, as well as geographical regions.

We are interested in the impact of our awards on individuals, their institutions and their countries and society as a whole. Some of the key indicators we are using to measure this impact include:

- level and sector of employment
- implementation of skills and experience
- evidence of international links and collaboration
- involvement within key leadership or development priority areas
- the individual's own perception of his or her impact

This list is of course not exhaustive. As well as qualitative analysis, the information gained from the studies is anticipated to enable us to begin the more challenging task of quantifying the impact made so far by our alumni.

From the survey findings and resulting more in-depth reports, we intend to identify several key areas on which to focus for the third stage of the programme. Over the next 12 months, we initially anticipate producing three or four more detailed reports. We are naturally particularly interested in the priority areas of our funding bodies, the Department for International Development (DFID) and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, including amongst others, agriculture, health, conflict resolution and economic growth. We will also look at the impact of the scheme in, for example, specific regions. The ongoing programme is expected to yield a number of key reports each year which will inform our funders and key stakeholders of the impact and benefits of the CSC's awards as well as being of significant interest to our alumni and other parties working in the development field.

So what information do we have to date? Detailed analysis is just commencing; we can, however, give you some initial findings. Of the 5,673 alumni to whom the survey was sent, 2,226 responded, giving us a very high response rate of nearly 40%.

In the first section, we asked for basic biographical information concerning award, employment, public offices held, honours received, contact details and so forth. Table 1 shows the distribution of respondents by

country and Table 2 by decade of award. Initial comparisons with the survey population as a whole suggest that the responses, in terms of regional, gender and sector distribution, are representative of the distribution of the survey population overall.

The second part of the survey focussed on the experiences of alumni both during and after their awards, and their perceptions of the impact of their award and their work in several key areas. In one question, aimed at identifying the perceived benefits of time spent on award, we asked respondents to look at a series of statements and to tell us which description applied to their time on award. This revealed perhaps unsurprisingly but nevertheless reassuringly that over 97% felt that they have gained knowledge in their field of expertise – over 90% 'significantly', with less than one percent feeling they had gained 'no' or 'not much' knowledge. 96% felt that they had increased their analytical and/or technical skills, whilst 80% had to at least some extent learned techniques for managing and organising people and projects. Reassuringly for an international programme, over 90% felt that they had been able to access equipment and expertise not available in their home country.

We then wanted to know the extent to which the award had contributed to their working life. As Figures 1 and 2 demonstrate, the vast majority felt that their award had had some impact on individual and potentially institutional or organisational levels.

A further area worth noting is the level of continued links with the UK. Almost 70% of respondents had to some extent, although only 29% 'significantly', maintained links with universities in the UK, 72% with social contacts, and 52% with work contacts. Only 48% reported maintaining links with professional associations to at least some extent and only 36% with the CSC. Further analysis will examine whether these figures are higher with recent alumni and whether those in particular sectors or levels of employment are more likely to maintain links; it will also consider the low number of respondents reporting continued links with the Commission and how that might be resolved.

The findings of the survey and subsequent more focussed studies will be vital, not only in informing

stakeholders of the valuable impact of their funding but also in aiding the Commission in future planning and policy. We shall give you regular updates on progress in our evaluation work, with the first key output from the alumni survey planned to coincide with the Welcome Day later this year.

The CSC secretariat would like to extend its gratitude to those alumni who have taken the time to respond to the survey.

The evaluation survey was distributed in early 2008, initially via email and then by hard copy to the 5,673 alumni for whom we hold up-to-date contact details. If you did not receive a copy of the survey and would like us to update your contact details, or if you would like to learn more about how you can participate in evaluation and alumni activity, please contact Rachel Day at rachel.day@cscuk.org.uk

TABLE 2: RESPONDENTS BY DECADE OF AWARD

1960s	155
1970s	201
1980s	294
1990s	552
2000s	1024
Total	2226

TABLE 1: RESPONDENTS BY COUNTRY

Anguilla	3
Antigua and Barbuda	4
Australia	177
Bahamas	3
Bangladesh	115
Barbados	17
Belize	2
Bermuda	6
Botswana	5
Brunei Darussalam	2
Cameroon	22
Canada	221
Cayman Islands	1
Cyprus	29
Dominica	7
Fiji	6
Ghana	69
Grenada	3
Guyana	24
Hong Kong	41
India	412
Jamaica	38
Kenya	79
Lesotho	9
Malawi	29
Malaysia	79
Maldives	4
Malta	35
Mauritius	25
Montserrat	1
Mozambique	2
Namibia	5
New Zealand	82
Nigeria	119
Pakistan	73
Papua New Guinea	2
Saint Kitts and Nevis	1
Saint Lucia	8
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	5
Samoa	2
Seychelles	4
Sierra Leone	18
Singapore	40
South Africa	82
Sri Lanka	105
Swaziland	8
Tanzania	44
The Gambia	15
Tonga	1
Trinidad and Tobago	21
Turks and Caicos Islands	2
Virgin Islands (British)	1
Zambia	29
Zimbabwe	15
Uganda	73
Unknown	1
Total	2226

FIGURE 1: TO WHAT EXTENT DID/DO YOU USE THE SPECIFIC SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGE GAINED DURING YOUR AWARD IN YOUR WORK?

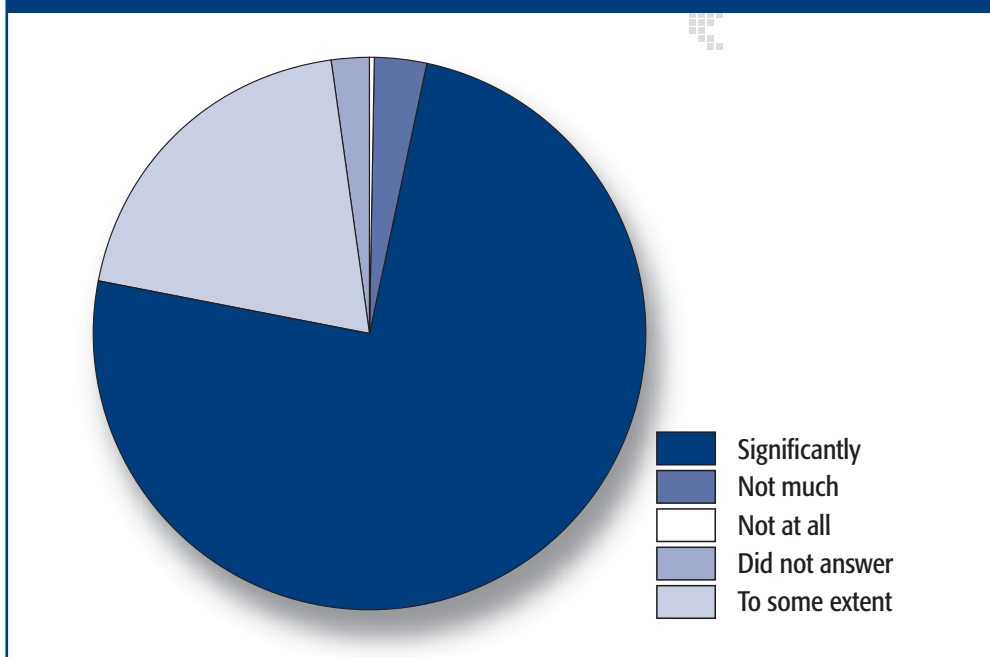
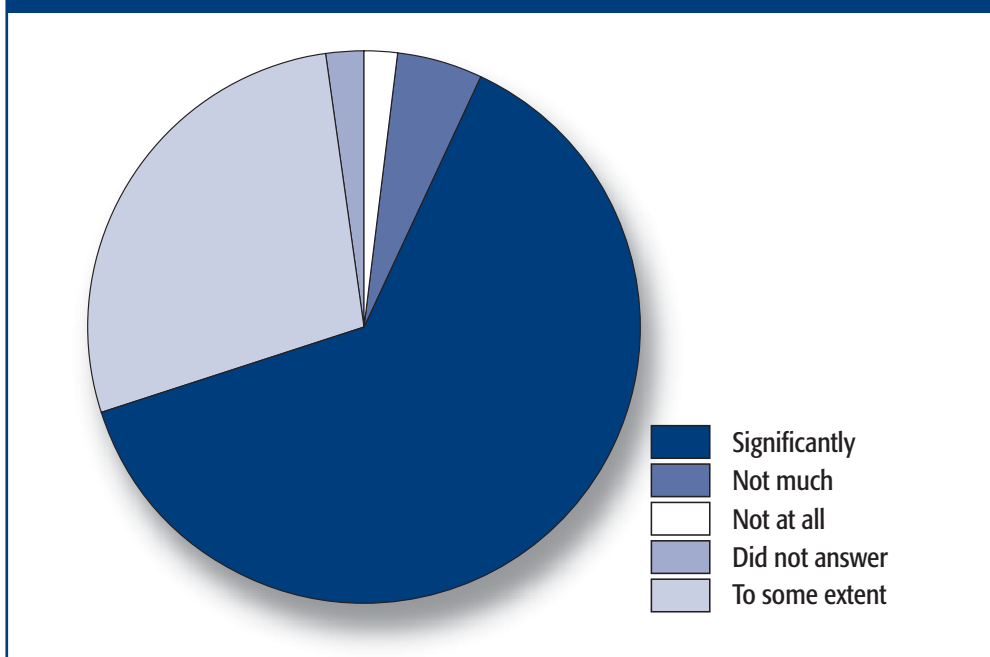


FIGURE 2: TO WHAT EXTENT DID/DOES YOUR AWARD INCREASE YOUR ABILITY TO HAVE INFLUENCE AND MAKE CHANGES IN YOUR WORK?



COMMONWEALTH SCHOLARSHIPS – A NEW DIMENSION

The Commonwealth Scholarship and Fellowship Plan is one of the largest and most prestigious international scholarship schemes in the world. Since 1959, over 25,000 individuals have held awards, hosted in over 20 countries.

As each issue of *Commonwealth Scholarships News* shows, Commonwealth Scholars and Fellows attain the highest levels of achievement, both during and after their awards. For many, their award is a 'once in a lifetime' experience, which offers new opportunities and the chance to make a real impact on their home countries.

Over its 50-year history, Commonwealth Scholarships have been mainly concentrated in a small number of host countries. This represents a major lost opportunity. Many low- and middle-income countries have study opportunities that would hugely benefit candidates from the north as well as promote stronger south-south collaboration.

So, in commemoration of the 50th Anniversary of the CSFP, Commonwealth education ministers agreed at their last meeting in 2006 to create an Endowment Fund to enable Commonwealth Scholarships to be hosted in developing countries.

The Endowment Fund will:

- establish Commonwealth Scholarships in a much wider range of lower- and middle-income countries
- be open to all citizens of Commonwealth countries

The Endowment Fund will make the scheme the most internationally diverse in the world, and create a new and permanent arm of Commonwealth collaboration – as per the founding principles of the CSFP.



An entirely new source of funding, the Endowment Fund will provide scholarships not available elsewhere and open to recipients from any Commonwealth country. It will be a major boost to south-south collaboration as well as actively encouraging students from developed Commonwealth countries to obtain experience in countries where this has not previously been possible. It will also help universities in those countries that cannot currently host Commonwealth Scholarships to develop centres of international standing.

The plan is for awards to be a partnership between host country and the Fund, with the hosts being expected at least to waive tuition fees and the Fund paying the student stipend, airfares and other incidentals.

The Endowment Fund will be formally launched next June, at the 17th Conference of Commonwealth Education Ministers in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Already, we have commitments of nearly £1 million, and we will be looking to raise more during the anniversary year. More details, including how you can contribute, will be available soon.

Emma Broadbent, Commonwealth Scholar, MA in Religious Studies, University of Cape Coast, Ghana, 2005-2007



Ursula Weekes, Commonwealth Fellow, National Museum Institute, New Delhi, India, 2004-present

LEARNING ABROAD: A HISTORY OF THE COMMONWEALTH SCHOLARSHIP AND FELLOWSHIP PLAN

A small team at the von Hügel Institute of St Edmund's College, Cambridge, are working on a history of the Commonwealth Scholarship and Fellowship Plan in time for publication to mark its 50th anniversary in 2009.

The Plan was conceived at a Commonwealth economic and trade conference in Montreal, Canada, in 1958 and set up at the first-ever Conference of Commonwealth Education Ministers in Oxford, UK, in 1959.

It is unique in that it comprises a set of bilateral agreements, made by individual Commonwealth governments, to fund scholarships and fellowships that enable young scholars or established academic staff to study in other Commonwealth countries.

Since 1959, over 25,000 people have studied abroad as Commonwealth Scholars or Fellows. Many have become senior university staff members; a smaller number have become ministers and prime ministers; others have attained fame or notoriety in journalism and the arts; a few have combined several of these achievements.

Britain has been the largest participant in the Plan, and Canada has also been a major player; Commonwealth developing countries play a central part in the story, involved in south-south and north-south programmes.

WHAT IS THE BOOK ABOUT?

The research, and the book that is based upon it, will do three things. First, it will examine how the Plan has developed and changed over the years. Second, it will draw from the experience of individual Scholars and Fellows in order to assess the significance of their award on their personal and professional lives as well as how it influenced their achievements. Third, it will set these two stories within the context of social, political and educational change over fifty years.

The research will also explore and document how the Plan has responded to changing national priorities within both sending and receiving countries. It will seek to answer questions about the contribution of scholarships to development and consequently the reduction of poverty.

It will draw from the experience of individual Scholars and Fellows to assess the significance of their award on their personal and professional lives as well as how it influenced their achievements.

By looking at the achievements of its alumni and their institutions, it will seek to answer questions about the Plan's contribution to the development of higher education and to society more generally. It will therefore address the central policy issue: how far is the funding of scholarships an effective way of contributing to development or a mechanism that principally advances individuals' careers and helps contribute to brain drain?

Already, in researching Commonwealth Scholars' academic contributions during tenure, it has been noted that achievements were not limited to passing their programme requirements. Scholars were recognised with awards, publications and supervisor reports that often praised their works as 'outstanding', 'top of the class', 'one of the best we have ever had' and well deserved of various accolades.

Some scholars made tangible contributions during their period in the UK, as well as afterwards. Many Scholars and Fellows published academic works, and one PhD student from

Kenya took the opportunity to write and publish a novel while on award. An Indian Scholar set up a research centre at his alma mater and signed a memorandum of understanding between his institution and a foreign university. In another example, a Commonwealth Fellowship holder from South Asia was reported by his associate to have '...made almost a quantum jump in the development of the original ideas...[his field of studies] will for the first time have a universal theory which is applicable throughout the range from infinitely dilute to saturated solutions'. However, not all award holders were necessarily successful and this book will also explore these cases.

The research of the Plan will include all parts of the Commonwealth and is not simply a British and Canadian account. Therefore, a number of country studies looking at the experience and impact of the Plan have been commissioned in Barbados, St Lucia, India, Pakistan, Australia and South Africa. Each country study will look, as appropriate, at national roles both in sending and receiving Scholars.

The principal researcher and author/editor is Dr Hilary Perraton. He is deputy chair of the Commonwealth Scholarship Commission in the UK and a historian by background who worked for some 30 years in international education, including ten years in the education programme of the Commonwealth Secretariat.

A Canadian research associate, Suzanne Lawrence, has been appointed to work with him. She is currently approaching alumni for information on their experience on award. If you are able to share your story with her, please email her at sal57@cam.ac.uk or call her on +44 (0)1223 741 839.

Keep watching for details on how to obtain your copy in 2009!

COMMONWEALTH SCHOLARSHIPS: PAST ACHIEVEMENTS AND FUTURE CHALLENGES

The CSC is celebrating its 50th Anniversary in 2009, and is planning a variety of activities to mark 50 years of Commonwealth Scholarships in the UK.



Anniversary calendar

2008

17 November

CSC Welcome Day for new Scholars and official launch of the 50th Anniversary celebrations – Westminster Central Hall, London

2009

20-22 March

Anniversary conference for current award holders – Cumberland Lodge, Windsor

21-22 April

Event to commemorate 50 years of the CSFP (in collaboration with the Commonwealth Secretariat and the Council for Education in the Commonwealth) – University of Oxford

23 April

Reception and launch of the second *Directory of Commonwealth Scholars and Fellows* – Marlborough House, London

15-19 June

Launch of the Endowment Fund appeal – 17CCEM (Conference of Commonwealth Education Ministers), Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

September

Publication of a history of the CSFP

9 November

CSC Welcome Day for new Scholars

11-13 November

50 @ 50 alumni event, looking at the role and future of Commonwealth Scholarships – Cumberland Lodge, Windsor

Get involved!

While many of the activities will take place in the UK, the CSC also hopes to host events in Commonwealth countries to coincide with visits from Commissioners, meaning that more of you will be able to participate in the celebrations!

For further news and updates on the plans for the 50th Anniversary, please check the new section on our website:
www.cscuk.org.uk/news/50anniversary.asp

ALUMNI IN ACTION

Alumni News

BRITISH ACADEMY FELLOWSHIP FOR FORMER SCHOLAR

Dr Emmanuel Akpabio (Commonwealth Split-site Scholar, PhD in Environmental and Resource Management, University of Uyo and Lancaster University, 2004-2006) has undertaken a British Academy Visiting Fellowship at Newcastle University from May-August 2008 on the project 'Indigenous water management and the challenges of state institutions in the Cross River basin, Nigeria'.

ALUMNUS AWARDED FULBRIGHT FELLOWSHIP

Professor V K Kapoor (Commonwealth Fellow, Epidemiology Unit, King's College London, 1996-1997) has been awarded a Fulbright Visiting Lecturer Fellowship at the Department of Surgery at Oregon Health and Science University, USA, from August-November 2008. He will also lecture at a number of other institutions in the US and attend the annual meeting of the American College of Surgeons. Professor Kapoor is based at the Sanjay Gandhi Postgraduate Institute of Medical Sciences, India.

FORMER SCHOLAR AWARDED BRITISH COUNCIL RESEARCH GRANT

Dr Amam Zonaid Siddiki (Commonwealth Scholar, PhD in Molecular Parasitology, University of Liverpool, 2002-2006) has been awarded a Development



Dr Amam Siddiki,
former Commonwealth Scholar

Partnerships in Higher Education (DelPHE) grant. His project, 'Capacity development towards risk analysis and prevention of zoonoses in Bangladesh', is a collaboration between the International Center for Diarrhoeal Diseases and Research, Bangladesh (ICDDRDB) and the University of Liverpool, UK, and was developed with his PhD supervisor, Dr Jonathan Wastling (now a Commonwealth Scholarship Commissioner). The team is developing a new curriculum on public health for veterinary undergraduate students and a website containing research publications on zoonotic diseases in Bangladesh and South Asia.

MALTESE ECONOMIST CONTRIBUTES TO NOBEL PEACE PRIZE

Professor Lino Briguglio (Commonwealth Academic Staff Scholar, PhD in Economics, University of Exeter, 1979-1982), Head of the Economics Department at the University of Malta, has been presented with a certificate for his role as one of the lead authors of the Fourth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), which was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize last year.

The IPCC has produced a series of scientific reports over the last twenty years, drawing on those with an expertise in climate change and its effects. The IPCC was established in 1988 by the World Meteorological Organisation and the United Nations Environment Programme. It is tasked with assessing scientific data on the risk of human-induced climate change and its potential impacts.

NEW UNIVERSITY FOR THE SEYCHELLES

Dr Rolph Payet (Commonwealth Scholar, BSc in Biochemistry, University of East Anglia, 1989-1992), Special Advisor to the President of the Seychelles, is also Chairman of the Seychelles University Foundation. The foundation is organising the creation of the first university for the Seychelles. More information can be found at www.sufoundation.sc



Dr Rolph Payet
former Commonwealth Scholar

Alumni Events

MAURITIUS ALUMNI CHAPTER AGM

The fourth annual general meeting of the UK Commonwealth Alumni Chapter – Mauritius was held in April 2008. **Dr Roshan Ramessur** (Commonwealth Scholar, BSc in Marine Chemistry, Bangor University, 1985-1988), Associate Professor at the University of Mauritius, was elected as UKCAC President from 2008-2010. Events held in 2008 have included an alumni dinner in May at Westminster House, the residence of the British High Commissioner to Mauritius. More information is available at <http://ukcac-mauritius.tripod.com>

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

GHANA ALUMNI RECEPTION

HE Dr Nicholas Westcott, British High Commissioner to Ghana, hosted a reception on 29 May 2008 to celebrate the Commonwealth Scholarship and Fellowship Plan (CSFP), the Chevening Scholarships Programme and the work of the Open University in supporting higher education in Africa. Guests included alumni from both scholarship programmes, officials from the UK Department for International Development (DFID) and the British Council, and senior Ghanaian academics and officials. Speakers at the event were the High Commissioner, Professor Tim Unwin (Commonwealth Scholarship Commissioner) and Professor David Vincent (Pro-Vice-Chancellor, Open University, UK). The occasion provided a valuable opportunity for alumni to learn about new developments in the CSFP, including arrangements to celebrate its 50th Anniversary.

In Brief

AWARD AND CAREER ANNOUNCEMENTS

Professor Md. Ruhul Amin (Commonwealth Fellow, Institute of Electromagnetics Research, University of Nottingham, 2006-2007) has been appointed as Dean of the Faculty of Electrical and Computer Engineering at Rajshahi University of Engineering and Technology, Bangladesh.

Professor Joan Beaumont (Commonwealth Scholar, PhD in War Studies, King's College London, 1971-1974) has recently been appointed Director (Dean) of the Faculty of Arts at the Australian National University.

Professor Md Rabiul Islam (Commonwealth Fellow, Chemistry Department, University of Manchester, 1989-1990) has been appointed Chair of the Chemistry division at Jahangirnagar University, Bangladesh.

Faisal Ferozali Notta (Commonwealth Distance Learning Scholar, MA in Education and International Development, Institute of Education, University of London, 2004-2006) was a panellist speaker at the International Symposium on Student Affairs and Student Services, organised by the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators (NASPA) in Boston, Massachusetts, USA in March 2008.

Professor Walter Woon (Commonwealth Academic Staff Scholar, LL.M in Law, University of Cambridge, 1982-1983) has been appointed Attorney-General of Singapore, from 11 April 2008.

We appreciate all your feedback and contributions, although it may not always be possible for us to include all your news, due to the amount of space available on these pages.

Keep in touch

Please keep us informed of your news, such as significant research, new senior appointment, major publication or national honour or award. We also welcome feedback on any aspect of this publication. You can get in touch by emailing comments@cscuk.org.uk or you can write to:

ALUMNI PROFILE

In this Anniversary issue, we look at a special Commonwealth Scholarships connection – Professor Sir Michael (Mike) Brady, Commonwealth Scholar at the Australian National University in 1967, later became supervisor to Dr Christian Behrenbruch, Commonwealth Scholar at the University of Oxford in 1998.

Professor Sir Michael Brady FRS, FEng, FMedSci, FIET, FlnstP, FBCS is BP Professor of Information Engineering at the University of Oxford. He is the author of over 450 articles and 24 patents and the author or editor of ten books in computer vision, robotics and medical image analysis. He was knighted in the 2003 New Year's honours list.



Professor Sir Michael Brady

Mike was a Commonwealth Scholar from 1967-1970, studying for a PhD in Mathematics at the Australian National University (ANU). His undergraduate studies had been inspired by a group of researchers headed by Professor Bernhard Neumann. When this group moved to ANU during his final year, Mike applied for a Commonwealth Scholarship to follow them.

Moving to Australia was a significant turning point in his life, as he was recently married and experienced life in a country completely different to the UK. Mike says, 'Professionally, ANU was a wonderful world of mathematics, with international stars regularly coming and presenting seminars. It never felt isolated. I also realised that a life as a professional mathematician was not for me, and I took my first tentative steps into the then-fledgling computing science, eventually into engineering science.'

Mike found that his time in Australia had a profound effect on his career. 'It taught me mathematical rigour and the clarity of mathematical thinking, which has been invaluable through my career. It taught me that one never loses by grasping opportunities to work in different countries: I have subsequently worked in England, the USA and France. I truly believe that I have become a more rounded person by having studied and worked abroad; I am less parochial than many of my colleagues. That process started with the Commonwealth Scholarship.'

Mike has supervised several 'first-rate' Commonwealth Scholars from Australia, including Christian Behrenbruch, who he says 'has shaped my

life in as many ways as I have shaped his. From day one we were colleagues rather than supervisor/supervisee'. Mike feels that his own Commonwealth Scholarship to Australia gave him a mutual understanding and so the Australian students were particularly special among the 100-odd PhD students he has supervised.

Dr Christian Behrenbruch is now a Professor at the Crump Institute for Medical Imaging at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA). His research focuses on how in vitro and in vivo diagnostics fit together, and on new ways of building inexpensive diagnostic 'chips' to detect cancer and immune disorder. In parallel to his academic career, he is also heavily involved in start-up companies in both the UK and the USA.



Dr Christian Behrenbruch

I believe that students take the opportunity to immerse themselves in the culture of another country and not only take a bit of that culture home with them, but also have a chance to leave something behind.

Dr Christian Behrenbruch

Christian was a Commonwealth Scholar at the University of Oxford, studying a joint DPhil in Engineering Science and Radiology from 1998-2001, with Mike Brady as his supervisor. His choice of institution was motivated by the opportunity to work with Mike in a culturally diverse environment.

Christian says, 'The UK is a brilliant place to be an academic because it is so close and well-integrated with European research, as well as having strong ties to US and Canadian institutions in a way that most European universities don't have. I know as many

bright researchers in Canada, Australia and New Zealand as I know in India and Malaysia. The opportunities for collaboration are enormous. I believe that students take the opportunity to immerse themselves in the culture of another country and not only take a bit of that culture home with them, but also have a chance to leave something behind.'

Mike's research concentrates on medical image analysis, specifically applied to cancer. One issue in medical imaging is that, as more than one imaging technology is usually used in the diagnosis of a patient, images from each technology need to be put into a common reference frame (aligned) and the various pieces of partial information they provide pooled – this is called image fusion. Christian's thesis research was on breast cancer, and he developed a system to align pairs of x-ray mammograms of the same woman, either taken at different times or from different views, and also the first system to align a mammogram (a 2D image) with an MRI (a 3D image). This was one of Mike and Christian's first joint publications and the first of its kind.

Following his Scholarship, Christian became the CEO of a spin-off company started by Mike, Mirada Solutions Ltd. This company was sold to a US company, CTI Molecular Imaging, and Christian remained as CEO of the UK subsidiary, with a staff of nearly 100 people. Christian was able to build on his experience to develop a successful image fusion system, Fusion7D – this was Mirada's successful medical image analysis product which not only inspired CTI to acquire it but is installed in thousands of hospital sites worldwide. In 2005, CTI Molecular Imaging was acquired by Siemens for USD 1bn, and continues to this day as the Advanced Applications Laboratory of Siemens Molecular Imaging.

Christian knew before applying for his Scholarship that Mike was a former Commonwealth Scholar and believes that 'the offer of a CSFP award made a big difference in the way he qualified my candidacy as a prospective doctoral student. In a way, I think the award helped me to get the best supervisor I could have hoped for'. He says, 'It was a fantastic three years of my life and I remain very active in and committed to the CSFP'.

COUNTRY PROFILE – JAMAICA



In Jamaica, CSFP offers of award by Jamaica are handled by the Ministry of Education, and offers to Jamaican citizens are administered by the Ministry of Finance and Public Service. We look at the work of these ministries and examine the impact of the CSFP on current and former CSC Scholars.

STUDYING IN JAMAICA THROUGH THE CSFP

The Jamaican Ministry of Education administers CSFP awards offered to students. Awards are made specifically for study at the University of the West Indies, Mona campus. UK citizens, such as David Pickering currently studying for a PhD in Medical Herbalis and Homeopathy at Mona, are currently the main recipients of awards.

Applications to Jamaica are sent to the Ministry of Education and then on to the University of the West Indies for review by a selection panel, which passes recommendations for awards back to the Ministry of Education for approval by the Permanent Secretary. To ensure that these Scholarships have a lasting impact in Jamaica, Scholars' theses are always kept by the University of the West Indies and the Ministry of Education.

JAMAICANS STUDYING OVERSEAS WITH THE CSFP

The UK and New Zealand currently offer awards to Jamaican citizens. The Ministry of Finance and Public Service advertises the awards in January/February for New Zealand and July/August for the UK, with a 6-8 week application deadline. Applications are then assessed in-house and a shortlist is prepared. The selection of candidates is dependent on areas of study as well as areas of national need, usually defined in the annual Economic and Social Survey of Jamaica.

Shortlisted candidates are required to attend a panel interview, usually comprising a representative from the Ministry, staff from the University of the West Indies and the University of Technology, Jamaica, and representatives from the British Council and other ministries.

Jamaican Commonwealth Scholars in New Zealand include Lois Parker and Sharma Taylor, studying for PhDs in Commerce and in Law respectively at Victoria University of Wellington; Rayon Gregory, studying an MVS (Master of Veterinary Studies) at Massey University; and Rohan Clarke, who has been awarded a Scholarship this year to pursue a MIntLaw&Pols (Master of International Law and Politics) at the University of Canterbury.

Commonwealth Scholars serve in every sphere in Jamaica, as demonstrated by the profiles below. Another high-profile alumnus is Dr Christopher Tufton (Commonwealth Scholar, Doctor of Business Administration, University of Manchester, 1999-2003) who is now Minister of Agriculture.

ALUMNI PROFILES

Judith Mowatt was a Commonwealth Scholar from 1998-2001, and studied for a PhD in Toxicology at the University of Manchester. Her research was in the field of genotoxicity, and Judith believes that her award has had a wide impact. Judith's appointment as Director of the Department of National Security at the Forensic Science Laboratory has enabled her



Judith Mowatt, former Commonwealth Scholar

to modernise the institution. 'As a civil servant, I would not have been able to afford my PhD. The CSFP award made this dream a reality and has given me the training to make a tangible difference to my place of work and to Jamaica as a whole.'

Celia Brown-Blake was a Commonwealth Scholar at the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE) from 1996-1997, and studied a LLM in Corporate and Commercial Law. Her course has had a direct impact on Celia's academic career at the University of the West Indies, teaching business-related law courses in the Department of Management Studies. 'Part of my research interest is in insolvency and financial regulation – a direct spin-off of my courses taken at LSE. I also serve on the Board of the Financial Services Commission in Jamaica – the regulatory authority for the non-bank financial sector. I therefore consider that my award has played a very integral part in my career development.'

Cheryl Dixon was a Commonwealth Scholar studying for a MA in Environmental Planning at the University of Nottingham from 1984-1986. Cheryl focussed on environmental impact assessment methodologies and disaster risk management. This was of great relevance when she



Cheryl Dixon, former Commonwealth Scholar

returned to Jamaica, as this had become a key development concern, and she was able to return to work at her former employer, the Planning Institute of Jamaica. Cheryl believes that schemes such as the CSFP are invaluable in enabling Jamaicans like herself to study at a graduate level. 'It was absolutely important for me to have received a scholarship for graduate work. I would not have been able to finance it using my own resources.'

ABOUT THE CSFP...

The Commonwealth Scholarship and Fellowship Plan (CSFP) 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 four discrete types of award:

- Commonwealth Scholarships
- Commonwealth Academic Fellowships
- Commonwealth Professional Fellowships
- Commonwealth Distance Learning Scholarships

Further details of current provision and selection procedures can be found on the CSC website at www.cscuk.org.uk

We hope that you have enjoyed this edition of *Commonwealth Scholarships News*. If you have any feedback, 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:

comments@cscuk.org.uk

Commonwealth Scholarships News

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