



COMMONWEALTH
SCHOLARSHIPS

NEWS

Promoting learning, development and co-operation

Issue 15
September 2012



Commonwealth Scholars: new directions, shared perspectives

OUR SCHOLARS AND FELLOWS · COUNTRY PROFILE – PAPUA NEW GUINEA · NEWS ROUND-UP
OUR ALUMNI · COMMONWEALTH CONNECTIONS · NETWORKS AND EVENTS

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I am delighted to have the opportunity to introduce this edition of *Commonwealth Scholarships News*. As a former Commonwealth Academic Fellow and presently as Minister for Tertiary Education, Science, Research and Technology in Mauritius, I value the role that Commonwealth Scholarships play in the development of individuals and capacity building in many countries.

This is an important year for education in the Commonwealth. In August 2012, Mauritius hosted the 18th Conference for Commonwealth Education Ministers (18CCEM) on the theme 'Education in the Commonwealth: Bridging the gap as we accelerate towards achieving Internationally Agreed Goals'. Although much progress has been made by many countries in areas such as primary education, the conference tackled a number of challenges such as access and equality in education, and also looked at wider issues such as postsecondary education and learning and technology. In Mauritius, we are already taking measures to create a skilled, versatile, and competent workforce by striving to achieve the objective of 'one graduate per family'.

CCEM provides a unique forum for education ministers from across the Commonwealth to meet and share their experience and ideas. As an alumnus, I am glad to see the many opportunities that the CSC provides for both current award holders and alumni to similarly meet and discuss issues of common interest, as well as to attend locally-held events and to join regional networks. Both groups can also participate in online networking via the CSC's Professional Networks.

Contact between alumni and the CSC is valuable for continued evaluation and has a number of practical benefits, for example, alumni retaining links with their host institutions through joint research projects, which in turn demonstrates the wider impact of Commonwealth Scholarships.

As someone who engages in, and benefits from, intergovernmental networks, I know the value that lies in such ongoing dialogue. Whether you are a Scholar, Fellow, or alumni member, I hope that you take advantage of the opportunities that the CSC and other Commonwealth organisations provide to facilitate collaboration, as you progress in your professional or academic career.

Dr Rajesh Jeetah

Minister for Tertiary Education, Science, Research and Technology, Mauritius
Commonwealth Academic Fellow, Civil and Environmental Engineering Applications,
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NEWS ROUND-UP

2012 SELECTIONS

The CSC has made its selections for the 2012-2013 academic year, for the following schemes:

Commonwealth Scholarships for candidates from developing Commonwealth countries, for Master's or PhD study (including Split-site Scholarships and scholarships to academic staff): **297**

Commonwealth Scholarships for candidates from developed Commonwealth countries, for PhD study: **10**

Commonwealth Academic Fellowships, for university staff from developing countries: **79**

Commonwealth Professional Fellowships, for mid-career professionals from developing countries: Round 2 (2011-2012) – **41**, Round 1 (2012-2013) – **26**

ONLINE DIRECTORY – 2012 UPDATE

The online version of the Directory of Commonwealth Scholars and Fellows now features over 29,000

names listed in the Register, together with over 4,000 alumni profiles. The online Directory is refreshed annually with new profiles – over 1,000 updates were made in 2011. The 2012 online Directory refresh is scheduled for October 2012.

The current online Directory can be viewed at <http://bit.ly/cscuk-online-directory>. Please note this includes alumni members who joined in or before 2010. If your profile does not appear, we may not have your consent to include your information – please email alumnitrace@cscuk.org.uk to ensure that you are included in the next refresh.

TAYLOR & FRANCIS COMMONWEALTH SCHOLAR BEST JOURNAL ARTICLE PRIZE

The CSC and the Taylor & Francis Group, a leading publisher of Commonwealth Studies under the Routledge imprint, are delighted to announce a new prize to be awarded for the most outstanding article published in a recognised peer-review journal of high standing by a current or recent doctoral Commonwealth Scholar.

The Taylor & Francis Commonwealth Scholar Best Journal Article Prize comprises £1,500 and a year's personal subscription to a Taylor & Francis Commonwealth-related journal of the winner's choice.

To be eligible for the prize, entrants must be Commonwealth Scholars who either are currently studying for a PhD, or have completed their PhD within 48 months prior to the prize entry deadline. Full terms and conditions are available at <http://bit.ly/cscuk-tandf-prize-2012>

The CSC has contacted all eligible current and former Commonwealth Scholars with full details on how to enter for the prize. The deadline for entries for the 2012 prize is **8 October 2012**. The winner and any commendations will be announced by the end of 2012.



Taylor & Francis
Taylor & Francis Group

NEW APPOINTMENTS AT THE SECRETARIAT

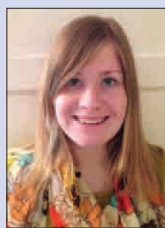


Peter Vlahos

Peter Vlahos has joined the secretariat as a Programme Officer. Peter graduated from the University of Manchester in 2008 with a BA in Geography, and trained as a secondary school teacher before working at the British Council in Manchester, as part of the Commonwealth Scholarship team.

Sainabou Taal has joined the secretariat as a Project Assistant, working for the

Alumni Office. Sainabou previously worked in the Gambia for two years as an Assistant Monitoring and Evaluation Officer at the UNICEF Country Office and ActionAid International, under the Global Fund Round 8 HIV/AIDS project.



Ellie Fixter

Ellie Fixter has joined the CSC secretariat as a Programme Officer. Ellie previously worked as an Admissions Officer for the University of East Anglia, from which she graduated in 2009 with a BA in French.

Neil Johnson has also joined the secretariat as a Programme Officer. Previously, Neil worked as a Researcher for the Chair of the Commons Innovation, Universities, Science and Skills Committee, and for the admissions team at London South Bank University. Neil holds a BA in International History and International Politics and an MA in Historical Research, both from the University of Sheffield.



Neil Johnson

OBITUARY: ROSEMARY STEVENSON

Rosemary Stevenson was appointed as a Commonwealth Scholarship Commissioner in 2008, and was due to take over as Chair of the CSC's Evaluation and Monitoring Committee at the time of her unexpected death on 15 November 2011.

Rosemary was a proud Scot. Born on 26 May 1960 in Glasgow, she studied Classics at the University of

Glasgow, and on graduating in 1981 she was awarded the Herkless Prize for the top woman arts graduate of her year. She then went to University College, Oxford, where she studied for a DPhil on Greek writing about Persia.

In 1984, she joined what was then the Overseas Development Administration, and between 1990 and 1994 was posted to Ghana, where she also managed to find time to teach Classics at the University of

Ghana. She later worked in the Eastern Europe section of the Know How Fund, and in 1998 worked in the Presidency Unit of the European Council. Her subsequent career included being UK Alternate Director of the World Bank, and a member of the Secretariat of the Commission for Africa.

On leaving the Civil Service in 2008, she continued with a wealth of consultancy work, as well as committing herself fully to her work

as a Commissioner. She not only brought the Commission a wealth of experience in international development, but also, through her own career as a Classicist and a civil servant, she contributed hugely to the wider policy agendas of the Commission. Above all, she was someone who contributed significantly to the lives of others, through both her wisdom and also her cheerfulness and great sense of fun. The Commission is very much the poorer for her departure.

OUR SCHOLARS AND FELLOWS

A selection of Commonwealth Scholars report on their research and how it will benefit their home countries.

REVOLUTIONISING MATHS TEACHING IN ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

Caron Weston is a 2007 Commonwealth Scholar from Antigua and Barbuda, and has recently completed her PhD in Education at the University of Nottingham. Her research looks at the role of classroom mathematics in preparing students for the workplace.

'My research, guided by the research question "Is the mathematics curriculum used in the secondary schools of Antigua and Barbuda appropriately preparing school leavers for the workplace?", found that no appropriate preparation of students was possible, since the curriculum in use was exam-oriented and there was a huge academic bias. Additionally, because accountability was one of the prime factors informing practice, teachers were teaching for the test rather than taking into consideration any notion of preparation of students for the workplace.'

Caron believes that her studies have enabled her to broaden her intellectual horizons. 'Research was not a part of my practice prior to coming to Nottingham, and I entered this academic programme lacking in knowledge of so many of the theories associated with the different research frameworks. This was a new educational territory to conquer and the challenges were many, but my research supervisors were always prepared to push me beyond my comfort zone whilst at the same time creating the space for me to grow in the discipline.'

'I now have a very solid knowledge base from which to launch my own programmes. These would provide second chances for students to acquire generative knowledge, and support teachers and parents as they seek to fulfil their tasks of appropriately preparing present and future citizens to live in the knowledge economy of the 21st century.'

Caron has returned to her post as Mathematics Officer at the Department of Education in Antigua and Barbuda. 'The knowledge acquired from this research will change the way in which mathematics is taught and learned in the classrooms of Antigua and Barbuda. I will be seeking to champion the cause of providing support for classroom mathematics teachers. My action should have the desired result to ensure that students will be provided with a more

fulfilling and enriching experience whilst learning mathematics in classrooms.

'This would not have been possible in my lifetime without my Commonwealth Scholarship. I have been privileged to have met Her Majesty the Queen and His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh, heads of state, and heads of organising bodies through CSC events, and have heard their views on pertinent matters affecting the populations of small underdeveloped states.'

INFLUENCING ENERGY POLICY IN NIGERIA



Timothy Mbasuen, 2010 Commonwealth Scholar from Nigeria

Timothy Sesugh Mbasuen, a Commonwealth Scholar from Nigeria, is currently pursuing a DPhil in Engineering Science at the University of Oxford. Prior to this, he held a Commonwealth Shared Scholarship to study for an MPhil in Engineering for Sustainable Development at the University of Cambridge, from 2009-2010.

'My current research aims to develop a policy-based tool that is capable of assessing the robustness of energy policy initiatives involving multi-level, multi-dimensional and multi-stakeholder interests or concerns, under a unified framework. The idea is to provide a novel and holistic sustainability assessment technique that will also serve as a decision support tool for energy policymaking in a national context. The motivation is to enable consideration and thorough evaluation of both

technical and social aspects of energy policies in a single assessment procedure.

'This new approach is envisaged to be particularly useful to "energy-rich" developing countries like Nigeria, in assessing the robustness of their energy policy interventions before implementation. This is in recognition of the huge energy policy challenges in these developing countries.'

Timothy has been a professional engineer for over ten years, and currently works at the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) – a government establishment that oversees joint venture activities and the development of the Nigerian oil and gas industry.

'Upon completion of my research, I intend to return to the Nigerian energy industry, to put the expertise and transferable skills acquired in the UK into practice. The ideas I am presently developing will be put to use through my current employment with the NNPC for an immediate impact. Over the medium and longer term, I intend to fully become an authority in energy policy – participating at the highest levels of energy policy making in Nigeria.'

EXAMINING HOW PHOTOGRAPHY HAS TRANSFORMED ART MUSEUMS

Sara Knelman is a 2009 Commonwealth Scholar from Canada and is studying for a PhD in History of Art at the Courtauld Institute of Art.

'My dissertation, tentatively titled "Exhibiting the Everyday: Photography and the Art Museum", explores trends in the curation and display of photography in mainstream public art institutions in the UK and the USA during the last three decades. It considers the interrelation between the proliferation of photographic exhibitions and of evolving museological mandates in the late 20th and early 21st centuries. This very active period of photographic exhibition was arguably transformational, both for art museums and for the definition and acceptance of fine art photography.'

Sara's research asks and attempts to answer a number of key questions. 'What were the conditions that led to a new institutional attitude toward photography? How was the medium interpreted and presented in relation to traditional fine art media?

IN YOUR OWN WORDS

Charlotte Greenhalgh is a 2009 Commonwealth Scholar from New Zealand, and is currently studying for a DPhil in History at the University of Oxford.

How did photographic practices adapt to this change in reception and display? How has the integration of photography altered the cultures of art institutions? And finally, how has this integration affected broader public perceptions of both the medium and the galleries and museums that display and collect it?

Sara has been able to undertake fieldwork for her research in the USA. 'In 2011, I left London for an extended research trip to Los Angeles, San Francisco and New York, in order to do in-depth archival research and interviews. I was able to visit a number of important archives and to interview key curators, critical thinkers and artists who have contributed to the development of photographic communities in these cities.

'When I return to Canada, I plan to pursue opportunities for curating, writing and teaching in my field, and to make a significant contribution to the public visual arts community through these practices.'



Sara Knelman, 2009 Commonwealth Scholar from Canada

My journey to the University of Oxford has been an adventure, a dream come true, and my greatest challenge. In March 2009, I opened an email that offered me a Commonwealth Scholarship. This brief message promised so much: the chance to follow the questions that most interest me about the past; to push my skills in research, writing, and argument to their full; and to work in the field that I love for three years.

I am a historian. My doctoral project asks questions about the personal, emotional and psychological experiences of ageing in mid-20th century Britain. I aim to tell an alternative story to current histories of old age, which trace the introduction of pension policy, geriatric medicine, and welfare services for the elderly. In the context of this mid-century expansion of the welfare state, it is important to consider what these policies implied about old age and how they affected the private and emotional dimensions of people's lives. How did the policy and practices of local authority welfare officers, voluntary workers, or business owners influence older Britons' sense of self and their beliefs about the meaning and value of later life?

Moreover, it is vital to look beyond the stories encoded in political policy and business plans. Old age has often been publically defined as a social category that an individual enters on their 60th or 65th birthday. I argue that older men and women have understood ageing differently, as a lifelong and personal process. I use mid-century autobiographies, diaries and sociological interviews to explore the informal

communities and social structures that shaped people's feelings about their bodies, homes and relationships as they grew older.

I have encountered many challenges over my first two years of study. Arriving in Oxford, my husband and I found ourselves in a beautiful and strange place that is full of tradition and populated by people from all over the world. During the

dark mornings of my first English winter, it was difficult to read messages from family in New Zealand, who might have been at the beach or enjoying a barbecue in the evening sun.

My ideas about the world have been challenged and expanded by friends from around the globe

Yet in dealing with homesickness I discovered the best of the University of Oxford and Green Templeton College. The university provides the formal settings and tools for student life and learning, but these structures also support an informal world of discussion, intellectual engagement and friendship. My ideas about the world have been challenged and expanded by friends from around the globe

and from the varied disciplines of medicine, social policy and social work, business, development studies, and education. I spend most of my days in the archives or the Bodleian Library. But I renew my determination and inspiration doing other things – from bike riding and belly dancing to meeting with other students to discuss a new question of human welfare every Tuesday evening.

By living and studying in Oxford I have learnt so much about British history, different ways of life, and global issues. I look forward to applying these fresh perspectives to life and historical practice in New Zealand.

TRANSFORMING WOMEN'S LIVES THROUGH EDUCATION

Angela Gono Bwalya, Asenath Fada Silong and Blessing Mbaebie reflect upon a conference looking at how education can transform the lives of young women.

Through the empowerment of young women using education tools, their lives can be improved in several ways. Efforts have been made in several Commonwealth states to put in place favourable policies that propose equal rights for men and women in all aspects of life, and funding for educational programmes in favour of young women. For example, in some African countries such as Ghana and Zambia, the concept of 'girl child education' has been adopted.

The concept of universal primary education has yielded successful results, and abolishing school fees at the primary level has had a major impact on encouraging gender parity in many countries. Likewise, scholarships at secondary and tertiary levels have been shown to have a major effect upon girls' school attendance.

However, countries still face huge difficulties in eliminating gender disparity in education and achieving equal opportunities and rights for men and women. The causes are complex, as they are dependent on national background, socioeconomic conditions, and shared deep-seated traditional-religious beliefs about women.

The Commonwealth has focused on these issues recently, as its theme for 2011 was 'Women as agents of change'. Drawing on this, a conference on 'Education for the transformation of young women's lives: Commonwealth perspectives' was held in October 2011.

Organised by the Council for Education in the Commonwealth (CEC), in collaboration with the Faculty of Education at the University of Cambridge

and the Social Transformations Programme Division of the Commonwealth Secretariat, the two-day conference focused on the implications of education for young women between the ages of 15-25.

The conference brought together various representatives of the UK research community, international, national and non-governmental organisations, and graduate students, to reflect on contemporary educational initiatives which promote opportunities for the wellbeing of young adult women in the Commonwealth countries. The conference aimed to develop a post-2011 agenda to empower girls through research, policy development and action, with respect to innovative educational and related social interventions.

The CSC sponsored three Commonwealth Scholars to attend the conference. Angela Gono Bwalya is from Zambia, and is a 2009 Commonwealth Scholar studying for a PhD in Pharmacognosy at the UCL School of Pharmacy. Asenath Fada Silong is a 2010 Commonwealth Scholar from Nigeria, and is studying for a PhD in Livelihoods (International Development and Applied Economics) at the University of Reading. Blessing Mbaebie is another 2010 Commonwealth Scholar from Nigeria, and is also studying for a PhD in Pharmacognosy at the UCL School of Pharmacy.

STUDYING GENDER EQUALITY

The first day of the conference focused on some recent studies of gender equality in selected African and Asian countries, and highlighted ways in which interaction between schooling, inequality and poverty affect women's empowerment and opportunities.

Elaine Unterhalter (Institute of Education, University of London), in a presentation entitled 'Young women and gender relations as policy focus', spoke about policy and practice achievements that have been attained since 2000. Joan Thomas Edwards, Jamaican Deputy High Commissioner to the UK, responded by giving an example of the Jamaican case, where there is a disjunction between formal rights and actual empowerment in gender relations. Although statistics favour the educational achievement of young women over that of young men, and women outperform men at all levels, this does not translate into empowerment. Jamaica is thus currently not on track to achieve its Millennium Development Goals on gender parity. While men are underrepresented and under-performing in education, the significant obstacle for women is a high rate of teenage pregnancy, which results in expulsion from school. However, the Jamaican government has intervened by creating centres for under-17s to continue their education after pregnancy.

EXPLORING RESEARCH METHODOLOGIES

The second day featured several trigger presentations on key methodological challenges in researching African and Asian Commonwealth countries, and some achievements in researching diverse cultures in the Caribbean.

Colleen McLaughlin (University of Cambridge) presented findings derived from the ASKAIDS project conducted in three African countries, in her presentation on 'Female education: risks and challenges in researching sexuality'. The study explored the social context in which young people live and how it influences their lives. Researching



(l-r) **Angela Gono Bwalya, Blessing Mbaebie, and Asenath Fada Silong** at the gender conference in Cambridge

sexuality in Africa is faced with some challenges, as it has been viewed culturally and religiously as a sensitive topic and dangerous knowledge for youth. It challenges prevailing cultural norms and puts respect for researchers in a questionable position, therefore affecting the ability to collect accurate answers. The findings of the study indicated that young people in Africa are not as innocent as constructed.

Madeleine Arnold and Nidhi Singal (University of Cambridge), in their presentation on 'Researching disability and gender in poverty contexts', included studies on youth, gender and citizenship and disability, education and poverty in Ghana, Kenya, India, and Pakistan. They presented the limitations of applying Northern-based research methodologies and approaches such as positionality, transitions, informed consent and giving back, in the Southern context.

The conference also highlighted issues that affect young women's education, such as:

- the entrenchment of poor perceptions and discrimination against women in societal development
- the non-recognition of the voice of women and their relegation to family roles
- child labour and teenage pregnancy (as mentioned above)
- dropouts due to early marriage and/or inadequate sex education
- lack of mentoring for young women from role models and professional guides
- unfriendly and violent atmospheres at work or school
- the inadequacy of inclusive literacy programmes

that focus on total female development and not necessarily using education as an end to an economic means

Contemplating all these factors, Blessing believes that 'Continuous assessment of the quality of education passed on to young women should be of paramount concern. This is because the right intervention of high-quality education and personal development will produce women who are aware of themselves as competent citizens and capable agents who can influence change at all levels of life'.

LASTING IMPRESSIONS

The conference has prompted Angela to consider the best approaches to tackling gender issues. 'In my view, different cultures and cultural values have a lot to do with the success of policies that affect women. How to balance and harmonise those values with the need to have women achieving at the same level as men is quite a challenge. Hence, the engagement and participation of men in gender issues is very vital.'

She learnt about research in gender issues and was also able to meet and discuss with other participants. 'The conference made me reflect on the needs of my community, and realise that there is always something that can be done, no matter how insignificant, to encourage and give especially young girls/women hope in achieving and pursuing their dreams. Mentoring and motivational speaking at schools would be a great starting point. In poor communities, particularly in Africa, women easily lose hope and accept the status quo; hence information at this juncture is of utmost importance.'

Asenath was impressed by the efforts made by Commonwealth countries to provide equal opportunities through research and practice, advocacy and policy interventions. 'With these tremendous efforts, however, the research output or findings may not be valid enough to be used for effective policy reform, as a result of the challenges experienced by researchers due to the diverse cultures and beliefs of the societies being researched. This therefore calls for a thorough debate on a shift in paradigms from the present research methodologies and ethics to ones that will bring valid and reliable findings for effective reform.'

Blessing found the conference inspiring. 'Awareness campaigns are a considerable tool to empower and share information among women. High-profile and successful women would be the best agents to champion this, as they will provide role models for younger women. I, as a female Commonwealth Scholar, have been greatly impacted because of the opportunity to realise my educational dream. On the contrary, many less privileged young women have such dreams but lack the proper information and economic means to achieve their goal.'

'To this end, a strong network of female Commonwealth alumni could be a formidable platform to educate and mentor young aspiring women in different fields of life. There is need to target more resourceful information at female students and to promote a participatory forum for dialogue, seminars and capacity building.'

THE CSC COMMUNITY – BE A PART OF IT!

Over 19,000 people across the world have held a Commonwealth Scholarship or Fellowship supported by the UK government since 1959. This impressive number also means that Commonwealth Scholars and Fellows are part of a vast community, from the moment they receive that all-important letter telling them that they have been selected.

The CSC community includes both current and former Commonwealth Scholars and Fellows, and aims to encourage networking in a variety of ways.

Current award holders studying in the UK have the opportunity to attend events organised by the Regional Networks, while our Distance Learning Scholars use seminars arranged by their host institutions or online networking to maintain contact with fellow Scholars.

Our alumni attend locally-held events, and use Commonwealth Scholarships News, alumni e-newsletters, and the CSC Professional Networks to keep in touch with both the CSC and each other.

Whether you want to share news of an upcoming event or an example of best practice in your professional field, there are now a range of opportunities available to our Scholars, Fellows and alumni.

LINKEDIN

One of our newest initiatives is the Commonwealth Scholarships group on LinkedIn, which is open to both current and former Scholars and Fellows: <http://linkd.in/commonwealthscholarships>

The group is run by the CSC secretariat, and used to share news, events, and other opportunities. All members are encouraged to post news items and start discussions too. Scholars have shared information on their research projects and job vacancies in their organisations, and made contact with other professionals in their field.

There are five CSC Professional Networks on LinkedIn:

- Agriculture and Rural Development
- Economics and Finance
- Environment
- Governance
- Science and Technology

Network Coordinators post a variety of news items (for example, international conferences or publications), as well as facilitating discussions. The Networks enable current Commonwealth Scholars and Fellows to make contact with and benefit from the expertise of our alumni. Members of the Commonwealth Scholarships group are able to join any of these Networks on LinkedIn. See page 20-21 for more information.

REGIONAL NETWORKS

Regional Networks, for current Commonwealth Scholars and Fellows in the UK, cover the whole of the country and help award holders to make contact with each other during their studies.

Each Network is coordinated by a current Commonwealth Scholar, who organises events and

outings. These can be social gatherings, and also more academically-focused events and looking at research, visiting institutions. Find out more at <http://bit.ly/cscuk-regional-networks>

DIRECTORY OF COMMONWEALTH SCHOLARS AND FELLOWS

The Directory of Commonwealth Scholars and Fellows was first published in hard copy; there were two print editions, one published in 2003, and another in 2009.

The online version of the Directory was launched in 2010, and now contains more than 4,000 alumni profiles. The online Directory is fully searchable, by country of origin, year of study, field of study, institution, and even occupation. It can be used to find experts in a certain field or partners for collaboration.

ALUMNI PROGRAMME

All Commonwealth Scholars and Fellows are invited to join the CSC alumni programme when they have completed their award.

Registered members receive copies of *Commonwealth Scholarships News* magazine, twice-yearly alumni e-newsletters, and invitations to local events that enable them to meet CSC Commissioners or the CSC secretariat, and local stakeholders such as British High Commissioners or British Council staff.

Alumni play a valuable role within the wider CSC community. In some regions, former Commonwealth



Commonwealth Scholars engaging in debate at the 2011 Wellcome Programme

Scholars and Fellows have assisted in the selection process for Commonwealth Scholarships and other UK government-funded scholarship schemes. This kind of participation is important for the future development of Commonwealth Scholarships, and also enables the scheme and individuals to forge links with stakeholders such as British High Commissions.

Alumni chapters are another channel through which former Commonwealth Scholars and Fellows can maintain their involvement in relevant activities. The Kenya alumni chapter draws its membership from both current Commonwealth Distance Learning Scholars as well as alumni, and has participated in a variety of projects and events.

The Kenya chapter has links with both civil society organisations and UK government representatives in Kenya. Members attended an event organised by the Royal Commonwealth Society as part of its 'Me and My Net' malaria awareness raising campaign, in Nairobi in 2011.

In May 2012, chapter members met UK MPs from the Commons Foreign Affairs Committee at the British High Commission in Nairobi. Alumni gave a presentation on the impact of Commonwealth Scholarships in Kenya, outlining the types of awards offered to Kenyan citizens, networking opportunities for Kenyan alumni, and the new opportunities offered by the CSFP Endowment Fund. Discussions focused on the resulting capacity building undertaken by alumni, and the importance of safeguarding and strengthening awards for Kenya. Commonwealth

Scholarships were acknowledged to be possibly the most practical and tangible benefit of the Commonwealth.

FUTURE OPPORTUNITIES

The CSC is keen to develop networking opportunities that enable Commonwealth Scholars and Fellows to strengthen their professional capacity and enhance their career opportunities.

Feedback from alumni emphasises the importance of retaining links with former host institutions, which often result in future collaboration on research or work projects. Many host universities and organisations find that staying in touch with award holders brings new opportunities for research in an international context, which they would not otherwise have had.

Alumni have also indicated that they would like increased contact with other stakeholders – such as the British Council, UK Department for International Development (DFID), or British High Commissions – through, for example, expert involvement in projects.

The CSC aims to widen contact between alumni and such stakeholders, while maintaining data protection safeguards. This year, as part of the alumni programme registration process, Commonwealth Scholars and Fellows are asked if they agree to the CSC forwarding their contact details to the British High Commission in their home country. This will enable High Commissions to contact alumni directly to invite them to events or meetings.

Commonwealth Scholars and Fellows come from diverse regions and professional contexts, encompassing sanitation engineers, teachers, barristers, university researchers, and Prime Ministers! It is clear that networking opportunities should take into account different interests and accessibility requirements. Online contact – particularly through social media – can prove invaluable when trying to connect an international community.

GET INVOLVED!

The greatest strength of the CSC community lies in its ability to bring together people from all across the Commonwealth, working in many different professions, often facing significant challenges. We value your input in the Professional Networks, as your views keep the CSC informed and can also help other Commonwealth Scholars and Fellows.

If you have maintained contact with your former host institution, we would like to hear how maintaining such links has benefited you and the institution.

We are also keen to hear about your involvement with other stakeholders, so that we can encourage others to engage and participate in activities that use the skills you have gained from your scholarship or fellowship to benefit wider communities. You can share your views and experiences by emailing alumni@cscuk.org.uk or with the wider community in an online discussion on our LinkedIn group.

COMMONWEALTH CONNECTIONS

2012 has been a special year of celebration, marking the Diamond Jubilee of Her Majesty the Queen, Head of the Commonwealth.

COMMONWEALTH DAY 2012

Commonwealth Day 2012 was held on Monday 12 March, under the theme 'Connecting Cultures'. A highlight of the Day is the Commonwealth Day Observance, held every year at Westminster Abbey and attended by Her Majesty The Queen.



Boghuma Titanji, 2011 Commonwealth Scholar, carrying the flag of Cameroon at the 2012 Commonwealth Day Observance

This year, for the first time, the CSC was asked to nominate Commonwealth Scholars and Fellows to act as flagbearers. Aishath Rizna is a 2011 Commonwealth Scholar studying LLM Human Rights at the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London. She was very keen to be chosen as a flagbearer for her home country, the Maldives. 'I was really excited when the news came in that I was selected to be a flagbearer in the presence of the Head of the Commonwealth, Her Majesty The Queen.'

Boghuma Titanji – a 2011 Commonwealth Scholar from Cameroon, studying MPhil HIV Drug Resistance at University College London – was also chosen as a flagbearer. 'Being selected to be the flagbearer for my country, Cameroon, at this year's Commonwealth Day Observance was an absolute honour and delight.'

The flagbearers met each other for the first time on the morning of the Observance, for their rehearsals. 'It was with great pleasure and excitement that I joined flagbearers from other countries in the morning rehearsal', said Boghuma. 'Though it was chilly in the Abbey, and the rehearsals were tiring, you could see on the faces of the flagbearers the singular desire to get it right, do it well, and represent their countries valiantly.'

'Finally when the clock struck 3.15 pm marking the start of the Observance, it was with a great sense of pride and a broad smile that, along with the other flagbearers, I processed into the Abbey, carrying my country's flag.'

The Observance is a multi-faith service, celebrating the Commonwealth theme through music, dance, and personal testimonies. Aishath commented that 'The multi-faith prayers brought a harmonising factor and showed the ideals that the Commonwealth stands for'.

Both Scholars found that the Observance inspired them to think about the deeper significance of the Commonwealth. 'Throughout the day, when we were practising our march, it made me realise what the Commonwealth stands for and the meaning of unity in diversity', said Aishath. 'Despite the different languages we speak, and different cultural backgrounds and religious practices we all come from, the Commonwealth brings us all together. Seeing other flagbearers dressed in their national costumes made the Observance even more colourful. Meeting new people of different ages – some of them schoolchildren, while the rest were university students like me – we all stood side by side as one and made it a successful flag procession embodying the "connection of cultures".'

Their experience as flagbearers certainly proved memorable. Boghuma said 'I thoroughly enjoyed the day and felt very fortunate to have been part of it all. It is an experience that I will treasure for many years to come, as it gave me a

true sense of belonging to this incredible family of nations that is the Commonwealth.'



Aishath Rizna, 2011 Commonwealth Scholar and flagbearer for the Maldives at the 2012 Commonwealth Day Observance

'Standing in the historic Westminster Abbey, as the flagbearer for the Maldives, was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity', said Aishath. 'Last but not least, the highlight of the day for me was seeing the Queen pass by the flagbearers and Her Royal Highness The Duchess of Cornwall saying that Maldives is a beautiful country to visit!'

Mimi Zou (2011 Commonwealth Scholar from Australia, DPhil Law, University of Oxford) also attended the service, as part of a group of Commonwealth Scholars and Fellows. 'As I sat in the south



Jacqueline Glasgow Browne, 2011
Commonwealth Professional Fellow and flagbearer
for St Vincent and The Grenadines at the 2012
Commonwealth Day Observance

wing of Westminster Abbey, along with 1,000 other attendees of this year's Commonwealth Observance Day, awaiting the arrival of Her Majesty The Queen, a few questions sailed into my mind

'Why does such a diversity of countries, remain so connected? Why does a global institution made up largely of republics have a monarch as its head? Why have countries that do not have constitutional links with the Commonwealth

applied to join? Why has the Commonwealth endured when other groupings of nations have come and gone?'

Mimi believes that the strength of the Commonwealth comes from its unity and the equal footing accorded to its member states. 'Importantly, the Commonwealth provides an international platform for the voices of all members to be heard. This year, a song had been specially commissioned entitled "Stronger as One", conveying a clear message: "The whole is greater than the sum of its parts".'

In her Observance address, the Queen emphasised the role of modern technology 'in allowing people across the world to understand how others live and gain an insight into the many things we share in common'. Other highlights of the ceremony for Mimi included Canadian songwriter Rufus Wainwright giving a moving rendition of "Hallelujah", while South African jazz musician Hugh Masekela asked the audience to sing with him.

In addition to the Queen, speakers included British primatologist Jane Goodall ('who greeted the audience in a "chimpanzee" call'), Scottish poet Liz Lochhead, Nigerian writer Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, Australian Senator the Honourable Jan Lucas, and Commonwealth Secretary-General Kamalesh Sharma.

'As the ceremony concluded and I walked on the sun-lit pavement outside the Abbey, I was surrounded by a colourful gathering of the young flagbearers who generously smiled for the many flashing cameras of onlookers', said Mimi. 'This reaffirmed my belief in the importance of the young citizens of the Commonwealth. I would like to warmly thank the Commonwealth Scholarship Commission for the opportunity of attending this year's Observance along with other Commonwealth Scholars and Fellows.'

DIAMOND JUBILEE TOUR

Her Majesty The Queen, accompanied by His Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh, undertook a tour of England, Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland as part of the celebrations to mark the 60th year of her reign.

Members of the Royal Family, representing the Queen, have also been visiting Commonwealth countries as part of the Diamond Jubilee celebrations. Overseas visits include:

- TRH The Prince of Wales and The Duchess of Cornwall touring Australia, Canada, New Zealand, and Papua New Guinea
- TRH The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge visiting Malaysia, Singapore, Solomon Islands, and Tuvalu
- HRH Prince Harry touring the Caribbean, including Belize, Jamaica, and the Bahamas
- HRH The Duke of York representing the Queen in India
- TRH The Earl and Countess of Wessex touring Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Gibraltar, Grenada, Montserrat, St Kitts and Nevis, St Lucia, St Vincent and The Grenadines, and Trinidad and Tobago
- HRH The Princess Royal visiting Mozambique, South Africa, and Zambia
- HRH The Duke of Gloucester visiting the British Virgin Islands and Malta
- HRH The Duke of Kent visiting the Falkland Islands and Uganda



THE QUEEN ELIZABETH DIAMOND JUBILEE TRUST

Her Majesty The Queen is Head of a Commonwealth of two billion people, with 54 countries spread over five continents – and she is now the second longest serving monarch in a thousand years of British history.

At the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) in Perth, Australia, in October 2011, it was unanimously agreed to establish The Queen Elizabeth Diamond Jubilee Trust, to honour Her Majesty's lifetime of duty and create an enduring legacy to her 60 years of service.

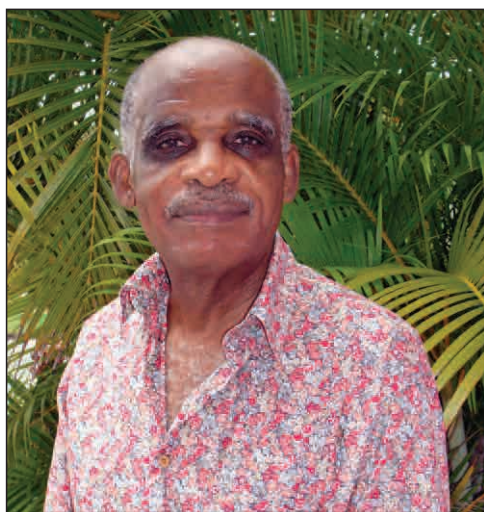
The Trust, which was officially launched on 6 February 2012 – the 60th anniversary of the Queen's accession to the throne – aims to raise funds from governments, individuals, organisations, and industry, to invest in projects that will make a real difference to people and their communities across the Commonwealth. To find out more about the Trust, visit www.jubileetribute.org

OUR ALUMNI

Alumni news

ALUMNUS KNIGHTED FOR SERVICES TO EDUCATION

Professor Sir Woodville Marshall (1960 Commonwealth Scholar from Barbados, PhD History, University of Cambridge) has been awarded a knighthood for services to education in Barbados.



Professor Sir Woodville Marshall, 1960 Commonwealth Scholar from Barbados

Sir Woodville is one of our earliest Scholars and is believed to be the first Commonwealth Scholar to be awarded his PhD, in 1962. He remembers attending an event at Cumberland Lodge (as many Scholars have since) which gave those present an opportunity to meet citizens from developed and developing regions.

During his distinguished career, Sir Woodville has been Head of the Department of History and Pro-Vice-Chancellor of the University of the West Indies at Cave Hill. He has fond memories of teaching, finding the interplay between lecturer and students especially satisfying. He has also found it rewarding to see many of his students become established historians themselves. When in university management, he instigated the formation of the University of the West Indies Press, and was instrumental in the creation of the Federal Archive Centre, which has a mandate to collect documentation relating to all regional organisations in the British Caribbean.

Sir Woodville has served the wider academic community in the Caribbean, as Founding Editor

of the *Journal of Caribbean History* and as Vice-President of the Association of Caribbean Universities and Research Institutes. He feels his career has been defined by 'the discovery that the 'British Caribbean historical experience was not a small subset of the British colonial experience (or imperial history), but had instead a claim to a discrete legitimacy'.

Sir Woodville reacted to the news of his knighthood with typical modesty, saying that he is 'flattered that I was thought deserving of such an honour', and keen to ensure that his activities as an Emeritus Professor continue to justify the honour.

RESEARCH GRANT FOR LIVESTOCK RESEARCH



Dr Amam Siddiki, 2002 Commonwealth Scholar from Bangladesh

Dr Amam Zonaed Siddiki (2002 Commonwealth Scholar from Bangladesh, PhD Molecular Parasitology, University of Liverpool) has been awarded a research grant worth \$130,000 from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). Amam's research project is titled 'Molecular characterization and identification of important zoonotic and infectious diseases of livestock and poultry in Bangladesh', and he will collaborate with his doctoral supervisor Professor Jonathan Wastling (also a Commonwealth Scholarship Commissioner) and Professor Panagiotis Karanis (of Bonn University, Germany).

Amam's project aims to develop suitable protocols for the molecular epidemiology/surveillance of important zoonotic and emerging diseases affecting

livestock and poultry in Bangladesh, with more detailed study on parasitic zoonoses such as malaria, cryptosporidiosis, giardiasis, and visceral leishmaniasis (also known as kala-azar or black fever) using modern diagnostic tools. The research group will also produce a geographic information systems (GIS) map on selected infectious/zoonotic diseases to reveal specific distribution patterns, seasonal variations, and animals affected. This will help to identify possible measures towards combating the outbreak of specific diseases. The ultimate aim of the project is to generate cost-effective, in-depth data on these selected diseases.

Awards and prizes

Christopher Agyapong Siaw (2010 Commonwealth Shared Scholar from Ghana, MSc Marketing, University of Glamorgan) has been awarded the Professor Malcolm McDonald Student Essay Prize 2011 by the Academy of Marketing, UK, for his essay titled 'Real value is defined by the customer, not the supplier'. Christopher said that he built on the understanding gained from his Master's course to develop his essay. 'We were discussing these issues during my classes, and so I decided to enter when I saw the competition and the essay title... I am extremely happy to have won this prize.'

Richard Appiah Otoo (2009 Commonwealth Scholar from Ghana, MSc Water Management, Cranfield University) has won the African Geospatial Excellence Award for Utilities Management. Richard, a Geographic Information Systems Manager at Ghana Water Company Ltd (GWCL), was awarded the prize in recognition of his achievements in 'building and strengthening the geospatial capabilities of GWCL and helping other utilities in Africa' and for demonstrating the successful implementation of the technology in other disciplines.

Dr Rishi Bali (2009 Commonwealth Scholar from India, Medical Training in Infection Control, Imperial College London) received a travel award to make a presentation at the first Global Forum on Bacterial Infections in October 2011. The forum, jointly organised by the Centre for Disease Dynamics, Economics and Policy, USA, and the Public Health Foundation of India, concluded with the health ministers of Ghana, India, Kenya, and Vietnam

signing a declaration on the rational use of antibiotics and prevention of antimicrobial resistance.



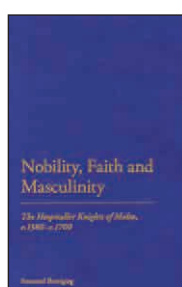
Dr Rishi Bali, 2009 Commonwealth Scholar from India, at the Global Forum on Bacterial Infections in October 2011

Dr Julie Makani (1996 Commonwealth Shared Scholar from Tanzania, Diploma in Internal Medicine, Imperial College London) has received a £60,000 grant towards a 12-month study which aims to provide a better understanding of the molecular, genetic, and environmental mechanisms of sickle cell disease (SCD). Julie is a Senior Lecturer in the Haematology Department at Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Sciences in Tanzania. She is also a consulting physician at Muhimbili National Hospital and a Clinical Research Fellow at the Nuffield Department of Clinical Medicine, University of Oxford, UK. Julie's work has shown that anaemia is a common cause of morbidity and mortality in SCD in Tanzania. She has developed a framework to conduct a clinical trial of hydroxyurea – a chemotherapy agent with potent effects on the bone marrow – in the treatment of anaemia in SCD.

Publications

Professor Richard Bosworth (1966 Commonwealth Scholar from Australia, PhD History, University of Cambridge) has published a new book titled *Whispering city: Rome and its histories* (Yale University Press, 2011). Professor Bosworth is Emeritus Professor at the University of Reading, UK, and the University of Western Australia, and is currently a Senior Research Fellow at Jesus College, University of Oxford, UK.

Dr Emanuel Buttigieg (2004 Commonwealth Scholar from Malta, MPhil Early Modern History, University of Cambridge) has published *Nobility, Faith and Masculinity: The Hospitaller Knights of Malta, c.1580-c.1700* (Continuum, 2011).



Professor Hennie Lötter (2004 Commonwealth Academic Fellow from South Africa, Justice and Poverty, University of Oxford), Professor of Philosophy at the University of Johannesburg, has published *Poverty, Ethics and Justice* (University of Wales Press, 2011). Part of the research for the book was undertaken during his Fellowship at Oxford.

Recent appointments

Dr Edward Akwasi Ampofo (2005 Commonwealth Scholar from Ghana, PhD Environmental Engineering, University of Southampton) has been appointed Senior Lecturer at the School of Agriculture, University of Cape Coast, Ghana.

Dr Kim McLean-Fiander (1994 Commonwealth Scholar from Canada, DPhil English, University of Oxford) has been appointed Editor of the Cultures of Knowledge project at the Faculty of History, University of Oxford, UK.

Pauline Muthigani (2007 Commonwealth Professional Fellow from Kenya, Technology and Education, Commonwealth Telecommunications Organisation) has been appointed Director and Board Member of the Kenya Postal Corporation. Pauline also manages Business Development (Telecoms/ICT) for Nordic Africa Technology, Kenya.

Professor Yogambikai Rasanayagam (1981 Commonwealth Academic Fellow from Sri Lanka, Industrial and Urban Development, University of Cambridge) has been appointed Chancellor of the Eastern University of Sri Lanka. Yogambikai previously served as Academic Adviser at the National Institute of Social Development, Sri Lanka, and as Academic Advisor (Educational Programmes) at the International Centre for the Advancement of



Professor Yogambikai Rasanayagam, 1981 Commonwealth Academic Fellow from Sri Lanka

Community-based Rehabilitation, Queen's University at Kingston, Canada.

Dr Peter Sherlock (1997 Commonwealth Scholar from Australia, DPhil Modern History, University of Oxford) has been appointed Vice-Chancellor of MCD University of Divinity, a new institution in Australia. Peter previously held various posts at the School of Historical Studies, University of Melbourne, Australia.



Dr Peter Sherlock, 1997 Commonwealth Scholar from Australia

Dr Gyanendra Singh (1974 Commonwealth Scholar from India, PhD Agricultural Engineering, University of Reading) has been appointed Vice-Chancellor of RKDF University, India. Gyanendra previously served two terms as Vice-Chancellor of Mahatma Gandhi Chitrakoot Gramodaya University, India.

Dr Lalji Singh (1974 Commonwealth Scholar from India, Postdoctoral Studies in Molecular Biology, University of Edinburgh) has been appointed Vice-Chancellor of Banaras Hindu University, India. Lalji was formerly Director of the Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology, India.

Alison Stone Roope (1993 Commonwealth Scholar from Jamaica, MPhil International Relations, University of Oxford) has been appointed Jamaica's first Ambassador to Brazil. Alison was formerly Deputy Director of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, Jamaica.

Have you changed job, email or postal address? Let us know at alumnitrace@cscuk.org.uk

Please note that all employment information received by the CSC will be added to our database and included in our annual refresh of the online Directory.

ALUMNI PROFILE

Reflecting recent reports from the CSC's Evaluation and Monitoring Programme focusing on impact in the Asia-Pacific region and on higher education, we meet three Commonwealth Scholars from the region who have remained involved with education during their careers.

Dr Michael Cullen (1968 Commonwealth Scholar from New Zealand, PhD History, University of Edinburgh) began his career as a university academic and then became a politician. He held a variety of ministerial portfolios, and was Deputy Prime Minister of New Zealand from 2002-2008.



Dr Michael Cullen,
1968 Commonwealth
Scholar and former
Deputy Prime Minister of
New Zealand

Michael's interest in British economic and social history drew him to study at the University of Edinburgh. The experience also shaped his self-development, both professionally and personally. 'The academic staff in the department were a very talented group. Testing myself in a much larger environment gave me great confidence yet, at the same time, also confirmed my sense of myself as a New Zealander.'

Following his Commonwealth Scholarship, Michael became a Lecturer and then a Senior Lecturer in History at the University of Otago, New Zealand. A colleague invited him to join the Labour Party, and he was elected as Member of Parliament for St Kilda in 1981.

During his political career, Michael held a range of posts, from tertiary education to social welfare. 'The most satisfying was finance, as it lies at the heart of all policy, especially the intersection of growth and social justice, which remains my abiding interest.' Serving as Leader of the House also fulfilled his interest in parliamentary process. As Minister in charge of Treaty of Waitangi negotiations, Michael was able to serve the interests of all sections of the community. 'It put me at the centre of the process of resolving historic wrongs done to New Zealand's indigenous (Māori) population.'

Tan Sri Dato' Professor Gajaraj Dhanarajan (1971 Commonwealth Scholar from Malaysia, PhD Entomology, Aston University) has held a range of high-profile posts in



**Tan Sri Dato' Professor
Gajaraj Dhanarajan, 1971**
Commonwealth Scholar
and former President of the
Commonwealth of Learning

University of Penang (later renamed Universiti Sains Malaysia).

'It was an enormous learning experience to see a young university in the heart of Birmingham grow. It was also a pleasure to work with dedicated, experienced, and committed natural scientists who not only shared their knowledge, but also guided a young researcher with passion.'

Following his PhD, Gajaraj held posts in Malaysia and overseas. He was Deputy Director at the Centre for Off-Campus Studies at Universiti Sains Malaysia, Secretary General of the Association of Asian Universities, based in Hong Kong, and Vice-Chancellor of Wawasan Open University, Malaysia.

Gajaraj also held two challenging yet rewarding positions as President of the Commonwealth of Learning and as Chief Executive of the Open University of Hong Kong. 'I was appointed at a time when both institutions were experiencing a "crisis of sorts", and it was enjoyable to turn them around to fulfil their vision.'

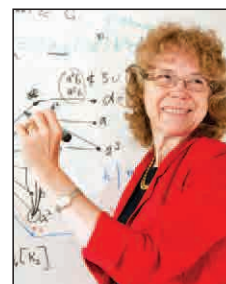
Gajaraj reflects that the advent of open universities and distance learning, in both of which he has been closely involved, has represented some of the biggest changes in higher education in the last 40 years. 'I was privileged to play a modest role in the growth of these ground-breaking innovations in higher education, both regionally and internationally.'

the field of international higher education.

A desire to pursue a particular course led Gajaraj to study at undergraduate level in India. Receiving a Commonwealth Scholarship to study at Aston University came at a key moment, as he had just accepted a post at the newly-established

Professor Cheryl Praeger (1970 Commonwealth Scholar from Australia, DPhil in Mathematics, University of Oxford) is Professor of Mathematics at the University of Western Australia. In addition to her contributions to teaching and research, she has advised governments regionally and nationally.

Cheryl's interest in overseas study was inspired by an undergraduate vacation scholarship at the Australian National University, where she 'saw research mathematicians from all over the world working in the maths department'. An important dimension of her Commonwealth Scholarship are the links she made with other researchers. 'The friendships and professional networks I formed during my DPhil study at Oxford were the beginning of my wide current professional network.'



**Professor Cheryl
Praeger, 1970**
Commonwealth Scholar
and Member of the
Order of Australia

A Core Member of the Australian Prime Minister's Science and Engineering Council from 1989-1992, Cheryl provided 'expert advice to government ministers on scientific and technological issues'. She was also a member of the Women in Science

Engineering and Technology Advisory Committee and its subcommittee from 1993-1995, and has advised on programmes for curriculum development for primary and secondary education.

Cheryl's contribution to education has been recognised by the Australian government; she was appointed a Member of the Order of Australia in 1999 and awarded the Centenary Medal in 2003.

Cheryl's connection to the UK is still important. The London Mathematical Society nominated Cheryl to the Executive of the International Mathematical Union. 'The UK has benefited from my expertise also – as well as the joint research I conduct with many UK colleagues, I was a panel member for the most recent EPSRC (Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council) review of research in the mathematical sciences.'

ADAPTING TO CLIMATE CHANGE

Nicholas Ozor (2005 Commonwealth Split-site Scholar, PhD Agricultural Extension, University of Nigeria, Nsukka and University of Reading) has coordinated a major research project over the last three years, collaborating with academics he met during his scholarship.

'Developing a Framework for Agricultural Adaptation to Climate Change in Southern Nigeria' was a DelPHE-funded project from 2008-2011 involving stakeholders from the University of Nigeria, Nsukka (UNN, at which Nicholas is a Senior Lecturer), the African Institute for Applied Economics, and the University of Reading (including Nicholas' PhD supervisor, Professor Chris Garforth).

The project entailed the implementation of surveys in six states randomly selected from the three geopolitical zones of southern Nigeria. Team members organised international workshops and attended more than 20 conferences. More than 20,000 stakeholders were trained in the area of climate change directly – 40% of them women. The research was compiled into a manual which provides a resource for teaching and community development alike, and a policy brief has been formulated to inform decision-making.

CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT

A grant from the Open Science Foundation enabled the project research team to undertake an institution-wide audit of climate change capacity in every department at UNN, covering both courses and projects. Many courses at the university are now being 'climate-proofed' as a result.

A committee, comprising Heads of Department and Deans of Faculty and headed by a project team member and the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academics), has revised existing courses to include climate change issues, introduced new courses in relevant departments, and set up a full programme on climate change at the university.

The audit report provides valuable reference material for all climate change studies and research at UNN and beyond. The resources and capacity building have also enhanced the chances of the university receiving future climate change-related grants.

AWARENESS BUILDING

The project has had a marked impact on awareness



Dr Nicholas Ozor, 2005 Commonwealth Split-site Scholar from Nigeria

and research of climate change at UNN. Over 1,400 academic staff at UNN are now aware of climate change and its application to their respective disciplines. About 30% of the student population

Nicholas' work on the project has galvanised departments across the university and inspired young researchers.

are already undertaking various research projects relating to climate change, many having received research grants. A country-wide essay competition for postgraduate students has also helped publicise the project.

There have also been practical benefits for the community. The skills gained have enhanced the employability of many graduates in the 'green economy'. The project has also been able to offer practical advice to those affected directly by climate change, for example, farmers. A project website enables other stakeholders across the globe to access information.

The publication of the evidence-based framework for agricultural adaptation to climate change enables other stakeholders in different regions across the country and beyond to have access to the

framework and to utilise or adapt it to their own particular conditions. It also provides reference material for other researchers conducting projects in similar areas. The framework can be used to develop a national climate change adaptation strategy for the different states surveyed and also for the entire country.

The project's research has also been disseminated in a wide range of books and journals, such as the *Journal of African Agricultural Extension and Agro-science: Journal of Tropical Agriculture, Food, Environment and Extension*, among others. Material has been included in proceedings from conferences, including the 2009 Human Dimensions of Global Environmental Change Open Meeting, held at the United Nations University in Bonn, Germany.

PARTNERSHIPS

After supervising Nicholas at the University of Reading, Chris Garforth found that this new collaboration has enriched his own academic work. 'It has brought me into contact with colleagues at his home university and, since he took a post on secondment at the African Technology Policy Studies Network based in Nairobi, where he is currently Senior Research Officer, with

new research contacts and colleagues across the continent. Those contacts are proving useful as I and my Reading colleagues embark on a new DFID-ESRC project in three countries in east Africa.'

Visiting UNN in March 2012, Chris was delighted to see how Nicholas' work on the project has galvanised departments across UNN and inspired young researchers. 'In turn, I have been able to put Nicholas and his UNN colleagues in touch with expertise and potential research collaborators at Reading. The benefits of this particular Commonwealth Split-site Scholarship have definitely been in both directions, and I look forward to continuing research collaboration between UNN and the University of Reading.'

More information on the project is available at www.delphe326nigeria.org

OUR IMPACT

Updates from the CSC's Evaluation and Monitoring Programme.

The CSC's Evaluation and Monitoring (E&M) Committee was formed in 2007 to provide the Commission with a better understanding of the impact of its awards. Shortly after its formation, we held a conference at Cumberland Lodge to understand what current knowledge existed on the impact of scholarships and fellowships internationally. Subsequently, we sent out our first 'all-alumni' survey, to which we received responses from almost 40% of our known alumni at that time.

The first comprehensive report on our alumni across all sectors and regions was published in 2009, providing information on alumni backgrounds and their key impacts in priority areas. Since then, we have continued to analyse the responses in more detail and have undertaken a review of sectors (for example, health, democratic principles, higher education) and Commonwealth regions (the Caribbean and Asia-Pacific so far). Findings have been reported at Commonwealth ministerial meetings and CSC events, in particular to mark our 50th anniversary. We have completed six study reports to date, with more in the pipeline.

Our E&M work has enabled us to demonstrate what our alumni are doing after their awards, the skills they have obtained during their awards and how they have implemented them, and the impact they have made in their home countries and regions, in terms of both leadership and (for DFID-funded scholars) their contribution to the alleviation of poverty-related issues. The mix of quantitative and qualitative analysis has provided a clear insight into alumni activities, and case studies have brought their impact to life.

As I reach the end of my term as Chair of the E&M Committee, our work moves to its next phase. The CSC strategy, coupled with the business drivers of our main funding departments, has enabled the

development of a new phase of the evaluation programme, linked to our key objectives and associated success indicators. This will be facilitated by a new alumni survey in 2012, to draw out the ways in which Commonwealth Scholarships and Fellowships contribute to the impact of our alumni in their home countries, and hence show how the CSC is meeting its own and its stakeholders' objectives.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of those in the Commission and at the CSC secretariat involved with the E&M work for their hard work and commitment over the past five years. Special thanks go to those alumni who replied to our first survey (and our many annual monitoring questionnaires!), as I certainly appreciate the time you give to complete our surveys and subsequent requests for information, knowing the busy schedules you all have in your daily lives. The information you provide is critical to the CSC as it shows the importance and relevance of our awards, how they make a difference to your skills and knowledge, how you have then been able to use those skills to make a difference in your home countries, and the degree of impact you have achieved.

Finally, I would like to wish Nyovani Madise all the very best as she takes over the role of Chair of the E&M Committee in 2012, as we move into the next phase of our work.

Dr Norm J Geddes

Commonwealth Scholarship Commissioner
Chair of the Evaluation and Monitoring Committee (2007-2011)

COMMONWEALTH SCHOLARSHIPS IN THE ASIA-PACIFIC REGION

2011 saw the publication of the CSC's second regional evaluation report, which focused on the work and impact of alumni in the Commonwealth countries of the Asia-Pacific region.

The report, which was published to coincide with the 2011 Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) in Perth, Australia, looked at the regional context of Commonwealth Scholarships and assessed the responses of 391 alumni from this region to the 2008 alumni survey. The report also highlighted a number of specific case studies in a broad range of fields.

The diversity of the region, from the more developed nations such as Australia and New Zealand to developing nations such as Papua New Guinea and Samoa, provided for a varied and interesting study, particularly in terms of the individual case studies. These clearly show the strong and wide-ranging impact of Commonwealth Scholarships in the Asia-Pacific region, while also demonstrating the need to continue to provide these opportunities for citizens of the region.

Key findings include:

- Over 2,500 awards have been offered to candidates from the region since 1960.
- The proportion of women award holders has increased from 16% in the 1960s to 52% in the 2000s.
- 99% of respondents from the region reported that they had gained skills and expertise on award, with 86% reporting gaining access to equipment and expertise not available at home.
- 92% confirmed that they were able to use these skills and expertise in their workplaces.
- 86% reported that their award contributed to the advancement of their careers, and 86% said that they were able to have influence and make changes in their workplaces as a result.

The report featured 25 case studies of alumni who reported impact in areas such as marine biology, child health, agriculture, and emerging industries.

Junaida Binti Abdullah is Director of the Ministry for Tourism in Malaysia, and she reports that 'I am in a position to recommend policy directions in the development of tourism activities that benefit local communities'. Junaida was awarded a Commonwealth Scholarship in 1999, and studied for a PhD in Management Studies for the Service Sector at the University of Surrey.

Professor Cheryl Elisabeth Praeger AM, from Australia, was awarded a Commonwealth Scholarship in 1970 to study for a PhD in Mathematics. She has advised government ministers on a variety of topics such as women in science and both primary and secondary education, as well as providing 'expert advice to government ministers on scientific and technological issues' through her membership of the Prime Minister's Science and Engineering Council from 1989-1992 (see page 14 for more details).

NEW FACES ON THE CSC EVALUATION TEAM

The CSC is pleased to welcome Professor Nyovani Madise as the new Chair of its Evaluation and Monitoring Committee. Nyovani has been a valued member of the committee for over two years. She said that she is honoured to take on the role of Chair. 'Working with Norm Geddes has been a very pleasant experience and I have learnt much from him. In particular, I have valued his business approach to evaluation and the importance of understanding the needs of the clients.'



Professor Nyovani Madise, the new Chair of the CSC Evaluation and Monitoring Committee

Nyovani is well qualified to offer a unique perspective on the CSC's evaluation work, as she herself is a former Commonwealth Scholar, from Malawi. She is currently Professor of Demography and Social Statistics and Associate Dean (Research and Enterprise) at the Faculty of Social and Human Sciences at the University of Southampton, and Director of the Centre for Global Health, Population, Poverty, and Policy. Her research interests include work on child survival, nutrition, HIV/AIDS, and contraceptive use dynamics in sub-Saharan Africa.

In addition, the CSC is delighted to welcome two new members of staff to the evaluation team.

Kathryn Scurfield and Faruk Barabhuiya joined the secretariat in April 2012. Their appointments reflect the ever-increasing importance of evaluation and monitoring to both the CSC and its funders.

A NEW ALUMNI SURVEY!

As four years – and six published reports – have passed since the 2008 alumni survey, the time has now come to gather new information from our former Commonwealth Scholars and Fellows, and also to allow those alumni who have been traced or have graduated since 2008 the opportunity to participate.

The new alumni survey exercise is currently underway. It will involve an in-depth survey sent out annually to approximately one-fifth of alumni, thus ensuring an annual supply of information (and great individual stories of achievement), while avoiding over-burdening our alumni with constant requests.

If the year of your award ends in 3 or 8, you will hear from us early next year. Those with award years ending in 4 and 9 will be surveyed in 2014. We very much hope that as many of you as possible will take the opportunity to respond.

If your award year is **1963, 1968, 1973, 1978, 1983, 1988, 1993, 1998, 2003, or 2008**, we will be in touch with details of our new alumni survey soon. Please do take the time to respond if you can, as this is very important to the future of the CSC – and we are always keen to hear good news stories about your work!

CSC EVALUATION AND MONITORING PROGRAMME

The CSC monitors the progress of award holders while they are in the UK, and also seeks to evaluate their impact after they return home. For more information, visit <http://bit.ly/cscuk-evaluation> or contact evaluation@cscuk.org.uk

MEASURING THE CONTRIBUTION, FINDING THE EVIDENCE

Kathryn Scurfield reports on a recent conference which provided an opportunity for those involved in scholarship evaluation to share experiences and ideas for future activity.



*A discussion session at the **Measuring the impact of international scholarships** event*

In March 2012, the CSC hosted a multi-agency workshop which sought to address the challenges and opportunities presented by the growing demands placed upon scholarship providers in terms of evaluation. A variety of stakeholders, ranging from scholarship providers and funders such as the UK Department for International Development (DFID) to scholars and alumni themselves, as well as representatives from universities and host organisations, took part in the event.

The residential nature of the event, held at Cumberland Lodge in Windsor, UK, allowed for formal, informal and frank exchanges and discussions. From the outset, it was clear that measuring the impact of scholarships, particularly in a development context, is indeed a multi-faceted and complex task, for which no provider had found an easy answer.

Following a welcome from CSC Chair Professor Tim Unwin and the Principal of Cumberland Lodge, Dr Alastair Niven, Dr Norm Geddes (Commonwealth Scholarship Commissioner and former Chair of the CSC's Evaluation and Monitoring Committee) opened the event by providing an overview of the CSC's evaluation programme and highlighting the objectives

of the conference. It was noted that monitoring and evaluation of scholarship programmes may not be straightforward but is nevertheless essential – even more so in current political and economic environments. Providers also pointed out that, while required by funders to demonstrate efficiency and value for money, evaluation processes also serve to highlight areas of potential weakness – as well as strength – within programmes, thus allowing them to improve upon programme administration and policy and increase the chances of positive outcomes and impact.

Following dinner on the first evening, Professor Jeff Waage (Director of the London International Development Centre and Commonwealth Scholarship Commissioner) gave a speech in which he commented on the relationship between the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and the higher education (HE) sector. He noted that, despite the absence of references to HE within the MDGs themselves, the importance of tertiary education in enabling the achievement of the targets is increasingly recognised. As the 2015 deadline for the MDGs draws closer, it was suggested that the sector should seize the opportunity to ensure its representation in any new development modalities that might replace the Goals.

Alongside presentations from the CSC, representatives from various non-profit and governmental organisations – such as AusAID, the Ford Foundation, NUFFIC (the Netherlands Universities Foundation for International Cooperation), and the Environment Agency – provided examples of existing methods and practice used to measure impact. These were followed by breakout sessions designed to allow for further discussion of current practice and challenges faced.

In the first such breakout session, participants were divided into three groups and asked to discuss one of three challenges:

- Establishing a common language of outputs, outcomes and impact
- Dealing with the issue of the counterfactual in scholarship programmes
- Identifying indicators and setting benchmarks in order to measure development impact

Discussions naturally led to more questions being raised, including:

- What does success/impact mean to different stakeholders?
- How is this, or how could it be, measured?
- How is this related to outcomes, outputs, and impact?

One accepted message was that success will invariably have different meanings depending on the perspectives and priorities of the various stakeholders involved. While recognising this, however, there still needs to be an accepted methodology among stakeholders with regard to programme evaluation, in order to have any effect at the policy level.

In terms of the counterfactual, issues of ethics and the difficulties of establishing comparable control groups were raised. Many accepted that, despite the challenge, a way should be found to address this, if possible.

On development impact, unsurprisingly, there was much interesting debate and, finally, the recognition that any measurement of this impact will require clear programme definitions from the beginning, as well as regular and consistent collection of data over time. Additionally, throughout all these processes, there must be an acceptance that impacts can be seen in the long term and, as such, beyond narrow timeframes.

The second day saw a further discussion session, again dividing participants into three groups. This time, participants were asked to take three viewpoints – of beneficiaries, of organisations, and of value for money – and consider their own current activities, future strategy, and how to measure it. Again there were some useful discussions, with scholars and alumni in particular providing very useful insights.

In conclusion, Professor Nyovani Madise (Commonwealth Scholarship Commissioner and Chair of the CSC's Evaluation and Monitoring Committee) provided a summary of the event, from potential next steps to improving evaluation techniques, including establishing benchmarks and sharing good practice on challenges such as evolving objectives and the limitations of rigid measurement structures.

The point was also made that scholarships are often only part of the development chain, and therefore attribution can be difficult to illustrate. Furthermore, the impacts of scholarships are likely to occur over a long period of time, for which short-term measurement is not possible. Nonetheless, it is possible for measurements to be made through the collection of both quantitative and qualitative data – including alumni surveys for self-reports on outcomes and impacts, follow-up in-depth interviews, case studies and interviews with high-profile alumni, and special surveys of other stakeholders (for example, home countries, institutions, employers, nominating agencies).

THE NEXT STEPS...

Professor Tim Unwin gave a closing speech in which he outlined a number of ways in which participants could work together, such as:

- joint surveys of all scholarship schemes in a single country or single organisation
- the sharing of instruments and evaluation tools
- developing a common approach to data policy
- engaging in joint research publication

A final point – particularly important as the CSC seeks to engage with scholars and alumni to get feedback on how programmes can be improved – is the desire to create online networking groups which share information, have periodic meetings, and perhaps even hold annual events for awardees and institutions to discuss platforms for improvement. Professor Unwin concluded by remarking that it is necessary to establish a community of practice to ensure consistency and quality of evaluation methods. It is hoped that this meeting will provide the starting point for such a community.

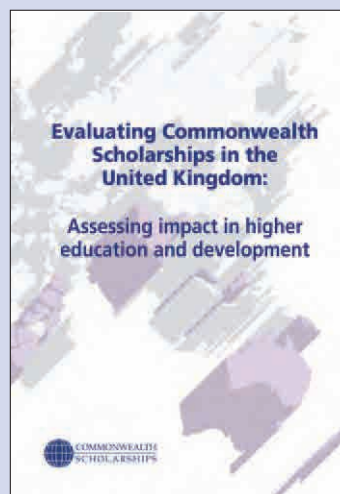
ASSESSING IMPACT IN HIGHER EDUCATION

In March 2012, the latest report from the CSC's Evaluation and Monitoring Programme was published, focusing on impact in higher education.

Previewed in the last issue of *Commonwealth Scholarships News*, the report – ***Assessing impact in higher education and development*** – provides an overview of how Commonwealth Scholars and Fellows have had specific influence on higher education systems in their home countries after their awards. The report also explores the links between universities and their communities, as well as the specific impacts that alumni report on strengthening and sustaining those links, thus contributing to socioeconomic development.

Looking at the results of the 2008 alumni survey, the report first illustrates ways in which alumni working in education have reported impact in socioeconomic development in their home countries, as well as how they have

had influence on particular projects, and on government policymaking. A key finding is that a high proportion of former Commonwealth Scholars and Fellows – 61% of survey respondents – work in higher education. 90% of these alumni reported that they had been able to introduce new practices and innovations in their institutions as a result of their time on award. This suggests that former Commonwealth Scholars and Fellows have had significant impact on their home institutions, and have helped to enable these institutions to have concurrent impact in the wider development and policymaking arenas.



The focus of the report is then narrowed to look at impact in three key Commonwealth universities: Makerere University in Uganda, the University of Dhaka in Bangladesh, and the University of the West Indies in the Caribbean. These three institutions represent different regions of the Commonwealth and have played a central role in their national and regional contexts. In addition, significant numbers of Commonwealth Scholars and Fellows count one of these universities as their home institution, providing a large pool of individuals to speak to about their experiences and the kinds of impact they have had on their return.

Follow-up in-depth interviews were conducted with particular staff members at these universities. These individuals – including a Professor of Agricultural Statistics, a former Vice-Chancellor, and a Director of a Social and Economic Studies institute – have had wide-ranging experiences upon their returns, in both steering new projects and programmes at their home institutions and leading initiatives in a wider development context.

The report concludes that, while Commonwealth Scholarships and Fellowships are, by their very nature, a form of intervention offered to individuals, there is nevertheless a follow-on impact on universities and other institutions of higher education overall – and that many Scholars and Fellows would not have been able to pursue their careers in the same manner without the opportunity of a scholarship. This suggests that scholarships and fellowships have a significant multiplier effect, and that the benefits gained by the individuals are often then externalised and institutionalised into structures of higher education.

NETWORKS AND EVENTS



Participants at the **CSC gender workshop** held in July 2011

EXPLORING GENDER ISSUES FOR UK COMMONWEALTH SCHOLARSHIPS

Commonwealth Scholars, Commissioners and members of the CSC secretariat attended a one-day workshop in July 2011 to discuss the specific obstacles facing female applicants and award holders, and to explore ways to improve CSC recruitment and the scholar experience.

Ideas for encouraging greater female participation in the scheme included diversifying the ways in which the scholarships are advertised, and clearer advice on the practicalities of balancing the demands of family life with undertaking postgraduate study.

SCHOLARS DISCUSS SCIENCE AND DEVELOPMENT WITH BRITISH MPS

A group of Commonwealth Scholars and Fellows had the opportunity to discuss their experiences as researchers in their home countries at a round table with the Commons Science and Technology Committee in February 2012.

The round table, which was convened as part of the Select Committee's inquiry into science and international development, gave the MPs a chance to meet scientists from a range of developing countries and explore the challenges they face. It followed written evidence submitted to the inquiry by the CSC, and oral evidence given by Dr John Kirkland, Executive Secretary.

PARLIAMENTARY EVENT AT WESTMINSTER HALL

Commonwealth Scholars met British MPs and Peers at an event organised by the Council for Education in the Commonwealth (CEC) and hosted by the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) in June 2012.

The event, held at Westminster Hall, Houses of Parliament, also featured a talk on UK Parliamentary history and customs by Sir Alan Haselhurst MP, Chair of the CPA and former Deputy Speaker of the House of Commons.



Round table with the **Commons Science and Technology Committee** held in February 2012



(l-r) Lord Hughes of Woodside, Sean Richmond (2011 Commonwealth Scholar from Canada), and Kingsley Chukwumalu (2011 Commonwealth Scholar from Nigeria) at the **Parliamentary event for Commonwealth Scholars** in June 2012

Professional Networks

NEW GOVERNANCE NETWORK COORDINATOR

Jonathan Harle, Programmes Manager (Research Capacity) at the Association of Commonwealth Universities (ACU) became the coordinator of the Governance Network in 2011.

Jonathan is keen to engage network members on practical issues in the field. 'You hear the word governance all the time these days, in every sector, but what does it really mean? I spent quite a bit of time during my studies looking at how donor agencies think about governance, and particularly how they use social and political research to understand governance, and then how they use this knowledge in their policy and programme development.'

Jonathan is also interested in what governance means in everyday social and political life. 'There are so many donors and NGOs looking to improve governance, but more often than not there's a fairly European/American template which they're following – what "good governance" is and the things countries need to do to meet these standards. It needs to be much richer than that. How are power and politics negotiated, expressed, and presented? How do things really happen? Can we conceive of more appropriate forms of "governance" which reflect local political realities rather than some global norm?'

After an undergraduate degree in Anthropology, Jonathan pursued a Master's in African Politics at the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), University of London. His role at the ACU is to develop and manage projects, specifically focusing on research capacity, and to undertake research and analysis on policy relating to higher education, research, and development.

Jonathan would like to hear from network members about what they are interested in, and if they are working on related issues that they would like to share with the network and then receive feedback. He would also like to hear what governance issues are important in your region, and if you are a member of any other academic or professional networks covering similar issues.

NETWORKS UPDATE

In an effort to consolidate membership of the Professional Networks to enable more targeted networking, the Governance Network has been merged with the Legal Network and the Faiths and Civil Society Network no longer operates as a separate group – but former members are encouraged to post news or events to the main Commonwealth Scholarships group on LinkedIn.

We hope that all network members will continue to post news items, research updates, and events to their network, as well as starting or participating in discussions. We also welcome your contributions to the main Commonwealth Scholarships group, where you can share news or discussions of a general nature and interest with all current Scholars and Fellows and alumni. To join, visit <http://linkd.in/commonwealthscholarships>

Alumni chapters

AUSTRALIA CHAPTER

A series of alumni events was held in Australia in September and October 2011. Dr John Kirkland, Executive Secretary of the CSC hosted events in Canberra, Sydney (where he was joined by Commonwealth Scholarship Commissioner Richard Middleton), and Melbourne, where he attended an inaugural chapter meeting organised by chapter coordinator Antara Mascarenhas.

Professor Tim Unwin, Chair of the CSC, also met with alumni while attending the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in Perth.

KENYA CHAPTER

The Kenya chapter held its second Annual General Meeting on 24 February 2012, exactly a year after its launch. 32 delegates, including both alumni and current Distance Learning Scholars attended the event, which was hosted by the British Council Kenya.

Chapter activities since the inaugural meeting in 2011 were reviewed. These included successes such as networking and participation in projects – for example, the Royal Commonwealth Society's (RCS) 'Me and My Net' initiative to combat malaria. Challenges facing the chapter, such as finances, were also discussed. Chapter members passed

resolutions on chapter identity and governance instruments.

The AGM also featured a special guest: James Foster, Chair of the Kenya Branch of the RCS, who has been involved with the chapter since its inception and whose advice to the executive committee has been extremely valuable. In his address, James congratulated the chapter on passing a sound constitution, adding that it will go a long way in streamlining its operations. He also expressed optimism about future continued collaboration between the chapter and the RCS.

MAURITIUS CHAPTER

Dr John Kirkland, Executive Secretary of the CSC, hosted an alumni event during his visit to Mauritius in March 2012. Members of the Mauritius chapter discussed plans for alumni involvement in the forthcoming Conference of Commonwealth Education Ministers (CCEM), being held in Mauritius in August 2012.

TRINIDAD CHAPTER

Professor Tim Unwin met with a group of alumni at an informal event in Port of Spain, Trinidad in September 2011.



Alumni event in Trinidad in September 2011

To find out more about the CSC alumni chapters – including contact details – visit <http://bit.ly/cscuk-alumni-chapters>

CSFP NEWS

Dr Simon Heap reports on his BNET Commonwealth Fellowship at the University of Ibadan – one of the first awards to be supported by the CSFP endowment fund.

I was the inaugural Britain-Nigeria Educational Trust (BNET) Commonwealth Fellow at the University of Ibadan (UI) in 2011, funded by a donation from BNET to the CSFP 50th anniversary endowment fund.

In fact, I have known UI for over 20 years. After studying degrees at the University of Cambridge and the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), I received a Leverhulme Trust Study Abroad Studentship for my doctorate, 'The liquor trade and the Nigerian economy, 1880-1939', at UI between 1990 and 1996. For me, Nigeria is dynamic, interesting, raw, colourful, unpredictable, never dull, and often brain-expanding. The city of Ibadan illustrates these qualities perfectly.

As someone who straddles both academic and development worlds, my research interests include the supply, transport, marketing, regulation, manufacture, and uses of alcohol in Nigeria, as well as a variety of other subjects such as NGO-business relations, civil society, Central Asia, water and sanitation, birth registration, children's issues, and HIV, as well as philately and juvenile delinquency. On the latter subject, I have even published a history of pickpocketing in Ibadan!

I am delighted to report that my BNET Commonwealth Fellowship, based at the familiar and warmly-welcoming Department of History, proved a very exciting and mutually stimulating time. Throughout



Simon Heap giving a seminar at the University of Ibadan, Nigeria

2011 COMMONWEALTH SCHOLARS AND FELLOWS SUPPORTED BY THE CSFP ENDOWMENT FUND

- Simon Heap, BNET Commonwealth Fellow from the United Kingdom, University of Ibadan, Nigeria
- Andrew Harvey, Commonwealth Scholar from Canada, MA Linguistics, University of Dar es Salaam, Tanzania
- Edward Namfua, Commonwealth Scholar from Tanzania, MBA Financial Services, University of Mauritius
- Emmanuel Dartey, Commonwealth Scholar from Ghana, Engineering, University of Nairobi, Kenya
- Dinesh Kodituwakku, Commonwealth Scholar from Sri Lanka, Master of Agriculture (MAgr), University of the South Pacific, Samoa

my stay from September to December, UI was not in session and the only students around campus were postgraduates. This proved fortunate, as mentoring students was a primary focus of my fellowship.

I worked with each of the ten doctoral history postgraduates to build their knowledge and skills to contribute to original historical research, no matter if they were just starting or writing up their work. Learning for such improvement was through very practical activities – reading a proposal, editing a chapter or two. I was not there to undermine their actual supervisor. By giving an outside perspective and being a mentor and experienced informant, I wanted my fellowship to provide a boost to the study of history among students and staff.

I was able to devote one-quarter of my fellowship time to my own specific current research interests, involving intense work in the National Archives housed on UI's beautiful campus, as well as fieldwork trips to Lagos, Ife, Abeokuta, and Osogbo. In the latter place, I participated in a writing workshop organised by the African Studies Association of the UK (ASAUK) and Historical Society of Nigeria's Congress. My research of primary data as well as hard-to-find secondary literature provided enough material to keep me in print for the next ten years!

While my intended public lectures never materialised due to the university not being open, two very well

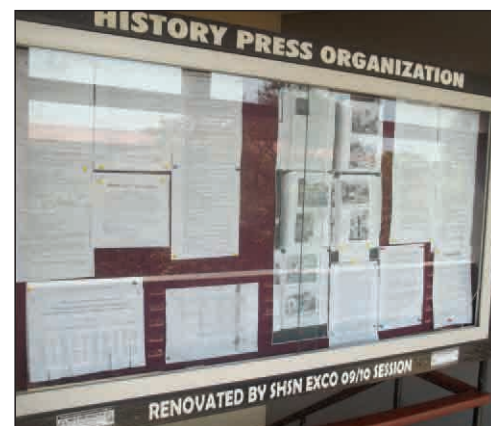
attended one-hour seminars took place instead. After completion of my second seminar, 50 history publications I had bought with BNET funds were donated to the department library.

Early on in my fellowship, I discovered the online Archives Wiki run by the American Historical Association, a free global guide to all the archives of the world. I uploaded three published guides of the three main archives of Nigeria, written when I was a doctoral student. The result has been excellent, with over 12,000 hits. It is gratifying to know that, through the BNET Commonwealth Fellowship, I have established a lasting resource that Nigerians and non-Nigerians can use, at any time, for free.

Words are not enough to express my profound gratitude and appreciation to those who have helped make this brilliant BNET Commonwealth Fellowship a very enjoyable and rewarding period of my life. After the fellowship, I landed an exciting post as Senior Programme Officer in the London office of JICA, the Japan International Cooperation Agency.

During my BNET fellowship, I found that a lot can be completed in three months. Though I had a head start as an alumnus of UI, I remain confident of the tremendous value that the initiative will bring to both future BNET fellows and UI. It will be fascinating to see how subsequent fellows fare.

A full report on Simon's fellowship is available on the BNET website at <http://bit.ly/MyO6IK>



The Department of History noticeboard at the University of Ibadan, which Simon kept filled with information for students during his fellowship

COUNTRY PROFILE – PAPUA NEW GUINEA

NOMINATION PROCESS

Applications for Commonwealth Scholarships and Fellowships are dealt with by the national nominating agency: the Papua New Guinean Department of Personnel Management. Since the Commonwealth Scholarship and Fellowship Plan (CSFP) was founded in 1959, 93 Papua New Guineans have held Commonwealth Scholarships and Fellowships in the UK. Papua New Guineans have also held awards in Australia, Canada, India, Jamaica, Malaysia, and New Zealand.

CURRENT SCHOLARS

Alois Jenkihau (2011 Commonwealth Distance Learning Scholar, MSc Forestry, Bangor University) works as a Policy Officer at the Papua New Guinea Forestry Authority, while studying for his Master's.

Alois believes that changes in forestry practices on regional and global levels over the last two decades – in particular, the effects of climate change on the timber trade – have affected and shifted traditional wood consumption and trading patterns. 'More pressures are exerted on tropical rainforest harvesting. The gloomy scenario is that there is little hope beyond the current harvest of Papua New Guinea's natural timber resource, unless proper policies are put in place to manage the nation's last tract of forest resources.'

While Papua New Guinea has developed a set of policy and legislative frameworks to achieve sustainable forest management, there are difficulties with implementation, mainly relating to a lack of financial and staff resources.

Through his MSc Forestry course, Alois is learning how to review and coordinate policies, and how to consult with stakeholders and seek foreign assistance or international advice when necessary. A key benefit is relationship building between the different stakeholders involved in managing the forests. 'The course enhances public relations, awareness, education, and the sharing of information, knowledge and technology locally and internationally. The knowledge and skills acquired can be imparted and shared with my colleagues in the organisation so that we can all work as a team to sustainably manage the forest resources of Papua New Guinea.'



© Taro Taylor

Mount Tavurvur, Papua New Guinea

'My Commonwealth Distance Learning Scholarship will assist me to acquire new knowledge and skills from this course and enhance my capacity to make informed decisions and give sound advice to the management of the Papua New Guinea Forest Authority for the sustainability of forest resources in the country.'

Takis Milton Solulu (2011 Commonwealth Scholar, PhD Forensic Entomology, University of Bristol) will be the first Papua New Guinean to attain a PhD in the field of forensic entomology. The study of insects in medical criminal investigations, forensic entomology has great potential for use in local policy homicide investigations. 'It is virtually unknown in

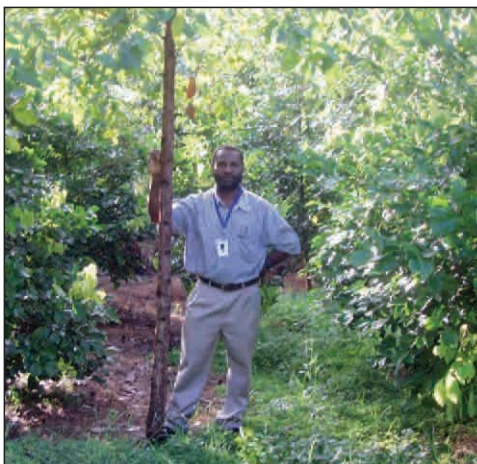
my country. Thus, with a PhD from Bristol, I intend to pioneer the field in my home country through both research and associated academic activities at the University of Papua New Guinea, where I am employed.'

ALUMNI

Many alumni from Papua New Guinea have returned after their Commonwealth Scholarship or Fellowship to work in higher education, having an impact on curriculum development and government and international policy. Some academics have served as Vice-Chancellors or Pro-Vice-Chancellors, as well as contributing to business and the private sector.

Lydia Lute Hiawalyer (2001 Commonwealth Scholar, MA English for Specific Purposes, University of Birmingham) has been able to improve the study skills of first-year science students since her award. She then moved on to train academics in facilitating student learning, also helping scientists to develop their writing skills.

Dr Norlie Miskaram (1975 Commonwealth Scholar, MSc Geography, School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London) is an Associate Professor at the University of Papua New Guinea and has had considerable strategic impact during his career. He has written a white paper for the development of environmental conservation for the Papua New Guinean National Executive Council, and has also worked on projects and reports for the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank.



*Commonwealth Scholar **Alois Jenkihau** inspecting a newly-planted eucalyptus tree at the Umi Forest Plantation, Papua New Guinea*



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 700 awards annually. Awards are funded by UKaid from the Department for International Development (for developing Commonwealth countries) and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills and the Scottish Government (for developed Commonwealth countries), in conjunction with UK universities. 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 CSC's secretariat is provided by the Association of Commonwealth Universities; financial administration services are 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.dfid.gov.uk/cscuk



www.flickr.com/cscuk



<http://twitter.com/commschols>



<http://linkd.in/commonwealthscholarships>

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