



COMMONWEALTH
SCHOLARSHIPS

NEWS

Promoting learning, development and co-operation

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Leading the
search for
knowledge

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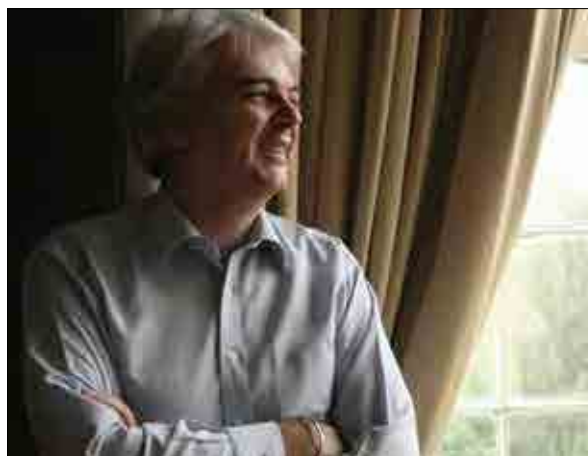
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As a former Commonwealth Scholar myself, I look with awe at today's Commonwealth Scholars and Fellows, and their intensity, determination and quality of work they undertake. Compared to these levels of academic excellence, I wonder if I would have a chance of receiving a Commonwealth Scholarship now!

For me, the impact of my scholarship has not simply been through my academic research, but borne out

through my professional life, working in over 50 countries, and in my current role facilitating international dialogue and exchange through meetings and conferences at Wilton Park. Often, it is happy accident that creates the lasting effect; it is the unexpected opportunity firmly and quickly seized that has the most profound impact.

My wife and I arrived in Sri Lanka in 1983 – the start of a very unhappy two decades for this, the most tranquil and beautiful of islands. We were welcomed into a university that suffered through political disturbances but remained a hospitable community of diverse intellectuals, lively students, and flustered administrators. My years with the National Youth Theatre in the UK were quickly discovered and I directed a very Sri Lankan production of Shakespeare's island tale *The Tempest* for the university theatre. My rugby playing past resulted in my being part of a practice team for the emerging Sri Lankan national squad.

Most important of all, I spent two weeks out of every four either in the remote Youth National Park or in the villages around it where I learnt, felt, and experienced the relationship between man and nature, and saw its symbiotic yet potentially destructive consequences.

So it was serendipity – derived from the Arabic name for Sri Lanka – that gave me the most valuable lessons of being a Commonwealth Scholar. First, grasp every opportunity that happy accident (serendipity) offers, the riskier the better; second, be open to the inspiration that others will give you by accident and for free; and thirdly, work hard (the lesson I learned with hindsight!).

When as a Commonwealth Scholar or Fellow you are asked to describe your impact, its relevance and significance to your home, then you should make sure you can reply with the words of T S Eliot: 'We shall not cease from exploration, and the end of all our exploring will be to arrive we started and know the place for the first time'.

Richard Burge

Commonwealth Scholarship Commissioner

1983 Commonwealth Scholar from the UK to Sri Lanka, PhD Zoology, University of Peradeniya
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NEWS ROUND-UP

2013 TAYLOR & FRANCIS COMMONWEALTH SCHOLAR BEST JOURNAL ARTICLE PRIZE

The CSC and the Taylor & Francis Group are pleased to announce that entries are now open for the 2013 Taylor & Francis Commonwealth Scholar Best Journal Article Prize. The prize, now in its second year, is awarded to a Scholar who submits the most outstanding article published in a recognised peer-review journal.

The CSC and Taylor & Francis recognise the importance of publication for early career researchers, and research dissemination in the interests of knowledge advancement and society. The prize aims to encourage and reward the publication achievements of Commonwealth Scholars who are completing, or have recently completed, their doctoral studies. The first recipient of the prize in 2012 was Dr Kabelo Senyatso – see page 14 to find out more about his work.

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 on the CSC website.



Taylor & Francis
Taylor & Francis Group

The CSC will email all eligible current and former Commonwealth Scholars with full details of how to enter for the prize in June 2013. In the meantime, if you need to update your email address on our records, please contact alumni@cscuk.org.uk with your full name and award details.

The deadline for entries is 16 September 2013. The winner and any commendations will be announced by the end of 2013.

ONLINE DIRECTORY OF COMMONWEALTH SCHOLARS AND FELLOWS

The online Directory provides an invaluable resource for current and former Commonwealth Scholars and Fellows, as well as stakeholders such as High Commissions and the British Council.

In addition to almost 5,000 alumni career profiles, the Register section of the Directory lists the names of almost 29,000 individuals who have

held scholarships or fellowships under the Commonwealth and Scholarship Plan around the Commonwealth since 1959. You can view and search the Directory at bit.ly/cscuk-online-directory

If you are approaching the end of your award, to have your profile included in next year's update of the Directory, you must accept the email invitation to join the CSC alumni association which will be sent to you in July/August. If you are an alumnus, any career, award or honours updates should be emailed to alumni@cscuk.org.uk by 31 July 2013 to ensure inclusion in this year's update.

DEVELOPMENT MODULE PILOT

The CSC ran a pilot event in March 2013 of its newly-created Development Module for Commonwealth Scholars studying PhDs. The Module aims to help PhD Scholars to improve their capacity to use their training for development impact, and is the cornerstone of the CSC's new commitment to improving the development impact of its scholarship and fellowship programmes. The Module will require Scholars to put together a development plan with their home institution, and will provide training relevant to achieving this.

The Development Module will be offered through two residential weekends, one early in the PhD programme and one towards the end of the study period. The pilot event comprised elements of both weekends, and was attended by 2010 and 2011 Scholars. Feedback provided by the attendees has been very helpful in shaping the future structure of the Module, and the CSC would like to thank all the Scholars who attended. The first full Development Module event will be held in July 2013, and eligible Scholars have been invited.

NEW APPOINTMENTS AT THE SECRETARIAT

Annabel Boud has joined the CSC Secretariat as Senior Programme Officer. She was previously Manager of Student Services and Manager of Marketing and Communications for the University of the South Pacific. She holds a BA in Politics and International Relations, Women's and Gender Studies from the University of New South Wales, Australia, and a Master's in Human Rights and Democratisation from the University of Sydney, Australia and University of Colombo, Sri Lanka.



Annabel Boud, Senior Programme Officer at the CSC Secretariat

Joanne Hyde has joined the Secretariat as Student Engagement Officer, in charge of organising a range of events and activities to help Commonwealth Scholars and Fellows make the most of their time in the UK. Joanne was previously an International Officer at the University of Nottingham, from which she graduated in 2009 with a BA in English; she also holds an MA in Publishing from University College London.



Joanne Hyde, Student Engagement Officer at the CSC Secretariat

Krystal Lee has joined the Secretariat as a Programme Officer (Finance). She previously worked for the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills as a Policy Advisor (China and Far East), having graduated from Aston University in 2011 with a BSc in Public Policy and Management and Sociology.



Krystal Lee, Programme Officer (Finance) at the CSC Secretariat

Vanessa Worthington has joined the secretariat as a Programme Officer. She previously worked at St George's, University of London within the Student Recruitment and Events Team. Vanessa holds a BA in Politics from the University of East Anglia, as well as an MA in American History.



Vanessa Worthington, Programme Officer at the CSC Secretariat

OUR SCHOLARS AND FELLOWS

Commonwealth Scholars and Fellows report on their awards and how what they have learnt will benefit their home countries.

BRINGING STRUCTURE TO JUDICIAL SENTENCING IN UGANDA

Juliet Kamuzze is a 2010 Commonwealth Scholar from Uganda, studying for a DPhil in Criminal Justice at the University of Strathclyde. Her research aims to find a structured sentencing system that could work within Uganda's political and legal culture. 'This research is unique in the sense that it investigates different structured sentencing systems adopted in a few selected Western jurisdictions and, rather than merely transplanting one system to Uganda, explores the comparability in the political and legal cultures of the given jurisdiction with Uganda, with a view to finding a system that will work best in Uganda's situation.'



Juliet Kamuzze, 2010 Commonwealth Scholar from Uganda

'Uganda's sentencing system is currently based on the system of individualised sentencing, where judges and magistrates are permitted by law to sentence within a wide range of options, subject to the parameters set by legislation through maximum penalties. As a result of the wide discretion exercised by the judges, similar offenders are sentenced differently. The unpredictability of punishments makes it impossible for policymakers to prescribe punishments that take into account Uganda's correctional resource capacity.'

The goal of Juliet's research is 'to find and recommend a system of structured sentencing that will adequately control judicial sentencing discretion without eliminating it, ensure the punishment of offenders proportionately to the degree of seriousness of their crimes, and regulate the use of

non-custodial punishments for nonviolent offenders; all of which will be done in view of Uganda's correctional resources capacity and traditionally accepted goals of punishment'.

Juliet believes that her research will have a direct impact on her home country. 'Being the first Ugandan to research structuring sentencing discretion in Uganda, I have no doubt that my knowledge and skills in this area will be of great benefit to the criminal justice system of Uganda. Upon successful completion of my research, I intend to work with the newly proposed Sentencing Council of Uganda in designing a structured sentencing system that will be principally and practically workable for Uganda. Also, as a Lecturer of Law at Makerere University, I plan on having structured sentencing introduced into the law school curriculum.'

EXAMINING IDENTITY PROCESSES AMONG ADOLESCENTS IN PAKISTAN

Bushra Hassan, a 2011 Commonwealth Scholar from Pakistan, is currently pursuing a PhD in Psychology at the University of Sussex. She is conducting research into social and personal aspects of identity – specifically, 'the way people describe "themselves" individually or as being part of larger social group'.

'Identity is the self-structured, self-constructed, coherent and dynamic organisation of an individual's drives and beliefs, which steers the individual along different personal, cultural and social aspects of life, and the crucial time for development of these aspects is adolescence. The available theories and measures for identity and its related constructs are based on Western literature. I tried to indigenise the literature on "identity" relevant to the cultural values of Pakistan.'

'The major aims of my research are to explore identity styles in the indigenous context of Pakistan, and to validate whether the model of identity styles is the same in the Pakistani context or whether it might vary for Pakistani adolescents. Pakistan is a relatively newly-established state and, due to diverse social, cultural, ethnic and religious backgrounds, Pakistani youth can be at greater risk of identity crises.'

Bushra's research also incorporates a 'cross-cultural comparison of Pakistani adolescents living in the United Kingdom', finding that these individuals 'experience another form of identity confusion while living in a naive culture that is new and unique to them and can at times clash with their home culture. I aspire that the findings of my research will

foreground the need to focus on developing healthy adolescent identities in the education system, family system and curriculum to give Pakistani adolescents a chance to develop a more coherent and integrated sense of identity. My ultimate objective is to provide inputs to governmental and non-governmental organisations, parents and family members to pay particular attention to adolescents and facilitate them while they are in the sensitive transitory period of their identity development. I am also aiming to propose an indigenous culturally-responsive intervention programme to foster positive youth development in disadvantaged or troubled youth in Pakistan. The knowledge, skills and abilities I learnt at my UK university shall be employed in future research conducted in Pakistan, to foster a research culture compatible with international standards.'



Bushra Hassan, 2011 Commonwealth Scholar from Pakistan

ADAPTING TO CLIMATE CHANGE IN THERMAL COMFORT BUILDING DESIGN FOR TROPICAL SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

Meshack Efeoma is a 2012 Commonwealth Scholar from Nigeria, currently pursuing a PhD in Architecture at the University of Edinburgh. Prior to this, he was a postgraduate researcher in the Department of Architecture, Graduate School of Engineering at the University of Tokyo, Japan, from 2010 to 2012.

'My current research is on thermal comfort in office buildings in tropical West African countries. The research is focused on the post-occupancy evaluation of existing office buildings in different climate regions in both Nigeria and Ghana. The various factors that influence the adaptation of

IN YOUR OWN WORDS

Zipporah Ali, 2007 Commonwealth Distance Learning Scholar from Kenya, considers the effect that her MSc studies in Palliative Care have had on her work in the field.

occupants of office buildings to thermal comfort in the sub-region will be carefully examined, compared and analysed, with a view to identifying the best possible ways of sustainable design for office buildings in the sub-region.'



Meshack Efeoma, 2012 Commonwealth Scholar from Nigeria

Meshack's research investigates the current situation in thermal comfort, with the aim of proposing improved methods. 'The goal is to reduce reliance on mechanical means of cooling in office buildings without sacrificing the comfort of the occupants of such buildings. Given the current fitful power supplies in the region, the limited resources available, and in response to current global climate change, there is a need to look for new approaches to sustainable passive designs. The benefits of this adaptive approach to thermal comfort in buildings will not only reduce energy use, but will also contribute to improving productivity and reducing sick building syndrome and environmental pollution, which usually result from the operation and running of the existing mechanical systems of cooling.

'It is my hope that the results of this research will be put to use when updating the existing thermal comfort standards. Policymakers in the sub-region will also benefit from the research, as it will aid them in making sustainable energy policies and in the development and updating of building codes.'



Dr Zipporah Ali, 2007 Commonwealth Distance Learning Scholar from Kenya

When the University of Dundee advertised for applications for its Master's course in Palliative Care, supported by Commonwealth Distance Learning Scholarships, I did not pay much attention. I had already been working for over 15 years in palliative care, had a Higher Diploma in Palliative Care, and was not really ready to go back into academia as a student. At that time, I thought I already knew enough and had so much on my plate.

However, enrolling in the programme made me realise that I still had a lot to learn and that there is no end to learning if you want to make an impact. I particularly enjoyed my first module, which focused on palliative care as an integral component of a health care system. As a leader and an advocate of palliative care in my country, my journey through the Master's programme has been very fruitful. It has opened doors to partnerships and networking, and has given me the skills, knowledge and courage to change the situation of pain and suffering for many patients in Kenya by advocating for palliative care to be integrated into the public health care system and the medical and nursing curriculum.

Kenya faces a double burden of both infectious diseases and non-communicable diseases. Most cancer patients are diagnosed when their disease is far advanced. While it may be impossible to provide curative treatment, these patients will greatly benefit from palliative care services. By scaling up services through integration, we can ensure that most patients will have access to care.

The need for research in palliative care, especially in Africa, cannot be overemphasised. I have enjoyed working with the team at the University of Dundee and they have been patient in mentoring me. Although the programme is through distance learning, the few times the team has come to Kenya have been very fruitful for all students on the course – I know I looked forward to the face-to-face sessions and the journal clubs. I continue looking forward to using the knowledge and skills I have acquired to improve palliative care services in my country.

"The Master's programme has opened doors to partnerships and networking, and has given me skills, knowledge and courage."

LIFE ON A SMALL ISLAND: FROM ST HELENA TO THE UK

Rebecca Lawrence is a 2012 Commonwealth Scholar from St Helena, currently completing a Bachelor's degree in Veterinary Medicine and Surgery at the University of Nottingham – one of a small group to have held a Commonwealth Scholarship for undergraduate study. Here, she writes about her life in St Helena, and why qualifying as a vet has the potential to make a real impact on her home country.

The first thing I usually tell people when they ask about St Helena Island is that it is small. It is 47 square miles (about the size of San Francisco), it has no airport or mobile phone service, and very few people have any idea it exists. St Helena is a British Overseas Territory located in the South Atlantic Ocean, midway between Africa and South America, and the only way to get there is by ship.

With a population of around 4000 people and limited access to the outside world, development in certain areas has been restricted. Up until 2010, there was no resident veterinary surgeon on the Island, so veterinary care was provided by a small team of locally-trained para-veterinarians, with occasional visits from consulting vets from the UK or South Africa. Veterinary services are provided by the government's Veterinary and Livestock Section, traditionally covering mostly large animal work but with an ever-expanding small animal aspect as well. I worked in the Section during my gap year and the experience I gained was invaluable in terms of my own development, as well as for my application to Veterinary School and for the Commonwealth Scholarship.

After finishing my A-levels on the Island, I applied for a St Helena Government Post School Scholarship. This is the traditional way for any school leaver on St Helena to obtain the necessary funding to aspire to higher education at a university in the UK. When applying for university placement through

the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS), British Overseas Territories students are classified as 'home' students, having had full British citizenship restored in 2002, but are not eligible for a student loan in the UK. The Post School Scholarship is therefore competitive and, to stand any chance of being considered, applicants must demonstrate academic success and have acquired the A-levels or other qualifications to be accepted on a chosen course of study that is also relevant to the development needs of the Island. Applicants must take a gap year rather than apply to universities with provisional grades. As part of the application process, I was required to make a presentation to the Scholarships Selection Committee explaining how my choice of a veterinary degree would be of benefit – it would result in the Island having its own local vet – to convince the panel why they should send me on such a long and expensive course. It was quite an experience, as I think a lot of people at home could not understand how I had come to choose such a career path. Possibly due to some misconception about what is required to become a veterinarian and their perception of me as being 'academic', it was assumed that I would choose to study something less practically involved where I wouldn't get my hands dirty. I was happy to disprove this stereotypical mindset.

The Scholarships Selection Committee, which is also St Helena's selection committee for Commonwealth Scholarships, thought fit to

nominate me for a Commonwealth Scholarship, with the assurance that, if I was not successful, I would be offered the local three-year Post School Scholarship. I would, however, have had to find funding for the additional two years of my course and be bonded to work on the Island for more than five years after completing my degree. Getting a Commonwealth Scholarship would mean a little more independence and greater flexibility for me and my career.

The months after I had submitted my application to UCAS were filled with emails and lots and lots of paperwork. The veterinary schools had to email everything to me as post often takes many months to reach the Island or sometimes gets lost altogether. Out of the four veterinary schools I applied to, I initially had no idea at all which one I preferred. All I had to go on were their prospectuses and whatever I could gather from researching the internet and communications via email. The time and cost of travel from the Island made it impossible to attend any open days. I did not make up my mind until I had had my telephone interviews with the University of Nottingham School of Veterinary Medicine and Science and the Royal Veterinary College in February 2012. I received an offer from Nottingham almost immediately and I was so happy that I had achieved my goal of the past three years: to be accepted by a veterinary school. After a few long days of deliberation, it got to the point where I knew that Nottingham was the best choice for me, so I accepted their offer.



Rebecca Lawrence, 2012 Commonwealth Scholar from St Helena

When I applied for the Commonwealth Scholarship, I thought it was highly unlikely that I would be offered an award. Not only was I an undergraduate and there are not many Commonwealth Scholarships awarded to undergraduates, but I wanted to study veterinary medicine, which is a five-year course – two years longer than the three years normally covered by the scholarship. When I received the email saying I had been offered a Commonwealth Scholarship it was totally unexpected and I could not believe how lucky I was.

I left St Helena in August 2012. My journey began with five days on the Royal Mail Ship St Helena, the Island's dedicated vessel – often called the Island's 'lifeline to the outside world'. The ship runs between St Helena and her sister island Ascension, and Cape Town in South Africa, from where the Island imports most of its food. I arrived in Cape Town to surprisingly good weather for the time of year and flew to England the following evening. I then spent four weeks with my sister, who is also at university in Hertfordshire. This time helped to prepare me for living on my own and adjusting to life in England. Finally, I made my way to Nottingham to start my studies.

The University of Nottingham School of Veterinary Medicine and Science is unique in terms of the

structure of its undergraduate course. The course is delivered through body system-based modules that include aspects of each of the more traditional modules, such as parasitology. The course is also very practically orientated, right from day one. The timetable is such that each week has a theme and the practical sessions and self-study tasks reflect these themes. There have already been a lot of

Having a qualified local veterinarian will make a big difference to the level of veterinary care we are able to provide on the Island. There has never been a St Helenian vet before.

animal handling classes, with the opportunity to practice handling skills in the school smallholding during free time. The school is very modern, and very friendly.

In March, I was invited to attend this year's Commonwealth Day Observance, representing St Helena at a programme held by the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association. Later, I had the privilege to meet Her Majesty The Queen and HRH The Duke of Edinburgh. This was a great honour for me

and something I would not have had the chance to do had I not been studying in the UK. I have the Commonwealth Scholarship Commission and everyone on St Helena who have supported me to thank for this.

Although in this past year I have come a long way and already done so much, there is still a long way to go, so returning home seems quite a long way ahead. The Island will be very different in four years: hopefully our airport will be completed and in operation, which will mean a totally different way of life to when I left. As a new graduate, I obviously do not expect to be able to return home and immediately run my own practice. I do think, however, that having a qualified local veterinarian who has been through formal training will make a big difference to the level of veterinary care we are able to provide on the Island. There has never been a St Helenian vet before so I cannot, at this point, say exactly how my future role will unfold but, from what I have experienced during my gap year and what I am learning at Veterinary School, there is a lot to think about and a lot to do. I hope I can make it all happen.

THREE YEARS ON: A NEW PATH FOR COMMONWEALTH SCHOLARSHIPS

The CSFP endowment fund was launched in 2009 to establish a new strand of Commonwealth Scholarships and Fellowships hosted by low and middle income countries. Three years on, the fund is proving to be a huge success. John Kirkland reports.



HRH The Prince of Wales at a reception held in support of the CSFP endowment fund in May 2010

Over 30,000 people have held Commonwealth Scholarships or Fellowships since the scheme began in 1959. These individuals have come from every Commonwealth country. However, only about a third of countries in the Commonwealth have hosted awards. This is because there is no central fund to support the scholarships and fellowships – historically, they have been funded by host countries themselves.

For much of the last two decades, the decline in universities in many Commonwealth countries also made it impractical for some nations to host Commonwealth Scholarships or Fellowships. So, while countries in regions such as west Africa were

The chance to study for qualifications in low and middle income countries is an interesting and attractive proposition for students.

regular hosts in the 1960s and 1970s, the supply of both scholarships and students wanting to take them up declined thereafter.

Now, much has changed; both the number of universities and the range of opportunities that they offer is expanding. The chance to study for qualifications in low and middle income countries is an interesting and attractive proposition for students not only from within the same regions, but also from

developed Commonwealth countries.

The new CSFP endowment fund, launched in 2009 to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Commonwealth

Scholarship and Fellowship Plan, aims to make these opportunities more widely available, and at the same time create a new strand of Commonwealth Scholarships alongside those offered in the UK and other developed countries. Equally important, the fund set out to ensure that the new scholarships and fellowships are available permanently. By using only the income from the fund each year, it should be possible to offer a consistent (and hopefully growing) number of awards year in, year out.

So far, the Commonwealth Scholarships community has responded brilliantly to the call. The request for one-off contributions, made in late 2009 and 2010, resulted in almost 200 donations. In terms of money, the most valuable donations were from Commonwealth governments, 12 of whom have now contributed. But, in terms of numbers, the vast majority of donors were individual alumni. Their contributions – ranging from £10 to several thousand pounds – have not only enhanced the size of the fund, but also represent an important statement of their appreciation of the way in which Commonwealth Scholarships have changed their lives, and their determination to ensure that others can enjoy the same opportunities for overseas study in the future.

The result, to date, is a fund worth some £6.2 million at current values – and still growing. In fact, the two largest contributions have both been made in the last 18 months. The number of scholarships that can be funded is also increasing. After a cautious start in 2011-2012, in which five awards were supported, 2013 will see a major expansion, with up to 15 Commonwealth Scholarships and around 12 Commonwealth Fellowships expected.

Some of the stories from the first round of scholarships and fellowships have been reported in earlier issues of *Commonwealth Scholarships News*. In the last edition, Andrew Harvey, a 2011 Commonwealth Scholar from Canada, described how he was leading the way in recording the language of and developing an alphabet for the Gorwaa ethnic group in Tanzania, as part of his Master's degree in Linguistics at the University of Dar es Salaam. His Commonwealth Scholarship was a formative period in his life, as well as for the many people who will be able to read their own language for the first time as a result.

A very different experience was had by Dr Simon Heap, who took up a Britain-Nigeria Educational Trust (BNET) Commonwealth Fellowship to spend three months at the University of Ibadan, Nigeria, in the field of history. As he related in Issue 15 of *Commonwealth Scholarships News*, Simon's visit came at a difficult time, with the university in the midst of strike action, but nevertheless combined unique personal research using material at the national archives with a range of capacity-building exercises. These included working with individual postgraduates to develop their proposal



Simon Heap, 2011 BNET Commonwealth Fellow, leading a seminar at the University of Ibadan, Nigeria

and article writing skills and running a series of training sessions. Following his Commonwealth Fellowship, Simon has been active in extending the range of materials available in the university library at Ibadan, and has just obtained a further grant from BNET to send another cohort of books.

The other inaugural Commonwealth Scholars supported by the CSFP endowment fund include Dinesh Kodituwakku from Sri Lanka, who was regarded as one of the best students on his PGDip Agriculture Economics course at the University of the South Pacific in Samoa. Edward Namfua, who works for the Revenue Collection Authority in Tanzania, took a specialist MBA course in Financial Services at the University of Mauritius – a programme which is not available in his home country. Emmanuel Dartey, from Ghana, studied for a Master's degree in Engineering at the University of Nairobi, Kenya. None of these awards would have been possible without a Commonwealth-wide scholarship scheme.

But that was just the start. Right now, candidates are applying for a range of Commonwealth Scholarships in an expanded list of countries. A total of 15 are available, in destinations ranging from South Africa to the South Pacific, Sri Lanka to Swaziland, Kenya to Cameroon. In most cases, the host government and university are contributing to the award by reducing or waiving tuition fees, so that the endowment fund support goes even further.

Postgraduate scholarships represent the main expenditure of the fund, but we are mindful that these are only really practical in countries that have the resources to host international students. As a result, we have also introduced a strand of short Commonwealth Fellowships, which will allow experienced academics to visit universities for short periods of teaching and research collaboration. Although there will be some overlap in the countries where the two types of awards are available, these will be aimed primarily at low income countries – Sierra Leone, Bangladesh, and Pakistan feature amongst the first host countries this year. These awards continue a long tradition of Commonwealth Fellowships being offered as part of the Commonwealth Scholarship and Fellowship Plan.



Edward Namfua, 2011 Commonwealth Scholar from Tanzania, at the University of Mauritius

It's important, of course, that the new strand of Commonwealth Scholarships complements, rather than replaces, traditional Commonwealth Scholarships in countries such as the UK. That can never be absolutely certain, since the future of the scheme in those countries depends critically on the willingness of governments to support them. All the evidence indicates that the endowment fund will strengthen this resolve. The availability of Commonwealth Scholarships and Fellowships in countries in Africa and Asia, and the willingness of alumni to show their support by contributing to the fund, can only help convince governments to play their part in ensuring that the scheme remains truly Commonwealth-wide.

In other news from the Commonwealth Scholarship and Fellowship Plan, Sir Lockwood Smith (1973 Commonwealth Scholar from New Zealand to Australia, PhD Intestinal Protein Turnover, University of Adelaide) has been appointed New Zealand's High Commissioner to the United Kingdom. Sir Lockwood has had a long political career in New Zealand, serving as a Member of Parliament from 1984-2013 and holding a number of ministerial posts, including the portfolios of education, finance, international trade, and tourism. He was Speaker of the House of Representatives prior to retiring to take up his diplomatic post.

We are still accepting donations from alumni to the CSFP endowment fund! To find out how you can contribute, visit www.csfp-online.org/fund

REACHING OUT

The international impact of Commonwealth Scholars and Fellows

We take a look at the careers of alumni who have worked for a variety of international organisations.

Access to international expertise has enabled them to develop new initiatives to widen access to education, health, civil society, and justice across the Commonwealth.



Dr Christian Behrenbruch, 1998 Commonwealth Scholar from Australia

Dr Christian Behrenbruch (1998 Commonwealth Scholar from Australia, DPhil Electrical Engineering, University of Oxford) is Founder and Chief Executive Officer of ImaginAb Inc. and Professor at the David Geffen School of Medicine, University of California, Los Angeles, USA. He works in the development of international healthcare technology, and is particularly interested in bridging the private/public divide. Since 2011, he has been a Young Global Leader (YGL) for the World Economic Forum – one of 200 individuals selected from around 6,000 nominations with the aim of, as he describes it, 'trying to make the world a better place'.

Several of Christian's projects have benefitted from his link with the World Economic Forum, including the Brussels-based Oncidium Foundation, which is working to make an inexpensive treatment for liver cancer available to people in South East Asia. Hepatitis B is a 'silent epidemic' in Asia, with many dying from liver cancer, and effective treatments often have a weak business case because there is

no patent protection for pharmaceutical companies. 'The YGL network has enabled me to access government, health care and financial resources in key countries to help get public health momentum'.

Christian appreciates the access to decision-makers provided by World Economic Forum. An important aspect is the range of people who are Young Global Leaders. 'The YGL environment is a network. It means that there are smart, motivated people who are going to be receptive to your outstretched hand.'

Carlston Boucher (1968 Commonwealth Scholar from Barbados, MA Development Economics, University of Sussex) worked for international institutions such as the World Bank and the United Nations prior to his retirement. He joined the World Bank in Washington, DC in 1972, and worked in a variety of country assistance sectors, including economic research, country operations, and development strategies, as well as cooperation with the United Nations System.

At the regional level, most of Carlston's work centred on the economies of southern Africa: South Africa, Botswana, Lesotho, and Swaziland. Even though South Africa, the dominant economy in the region, was not eligible for World Bank loans (due to its apartheid policy), the study of its economy was critical to lending in surrounding countries, given their dependence on emigration for employment in South African mines. Carlston led a mission to South Africa to improve the bank's understanding of this integration process, and the long-term implications for national policies of the less developed countries, given the substantial economic impact of the mining sector.

In 1995, Carlston was appointed Barbados' Permanent Representative and Ambassador to the United Nations, which enabled him to play an important role in international diplomacy. He had a central part in many committees that administer the work of the General Assembly, and was appointed Chairman of the Credentials Committee of the General Assembly, Vice Chairman of the Association

of Small Island States, and Chairman of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States.

Fanta Jatta-Sowe (2007 Commonwealth Distance Learning Scholar from the Gambia, MSc Public Health, Leeds Metropolitan University) is currently Women's Rights Manager at ActionAid International The Gambia (AAITG), where she is responsible for developing gender policies.

Fanta has been directly involved in a project on women's access to legal justice, which has seen AAITG enter into a partnership agreement with the Female Lawyers' Association of the Gambia to support access to legal justice for women survivors of gender-based violence. Fanta has contributed to the agency's fight against poverty and injustice, specifically improving opportunities for women in the country.

Fanta gained 'critical skills in analysis, change management, community mobilisation and research' from her Commonwealth Scholarship, which enhanced her ability to work effectively in the areas of gender, public health, and international development.

Parker Mitchell (2001 Commonwealth Scholar from Canada, MPhil Development Studies, University of Cambridge) co-founded Engineers Without Borders (EWB) in 2000, having studied Mechanical Engineering at undergraduate level at the University of Waterloo, Canada.

In its first decade, EWB Canada attracted 35,000 members, 3000 of whom are active at any one time. CAD 25 million has been raised, and 2 million volunteer hours have been donated. EWB volunteers helped partner organisations in four countries in Africa on agricultural, water and sanitation, and small-scale infrastructure improvements.

In 2001, while on his Commonwealth Scholarship, Parker introduced Engineers Without Borders, which enables engineers to use their skills to alleviate world poverty, to colleagues at Cambridge. 'I helped set up and mentor the team that created EWB-UK.

'I am enormously grateful and proud to be a Commonwealth Scholar'

Some of these early leaders then led the growth of EWB-UK to become a professional charity.'

EWB takes a holistic approach to problems. 'As engineers, we'd always try to get to the root of the issue. Rather than install a handpump, when five years later about four in ten handpumps won't be working, we have worked with stakeholders – including local governments, private handpump repairmen, the shops stocking spare parts, national governments – to improve maintenance and help to design systems to identify and repair pumps, rather than simply install new ones.'

Professor Michael Omolewa (1975 Commonwealth Academic Fellow from Nigeria, History of Adult Education, King's College London) has held a range of key positions in tertiary education both within Nigeria and internationally. From 2000 to 2009, Michael served as Nigeria's Ambassador and Permanent Delegate to UNESCO, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization. 'My mission was to bring the world to Nigeria and to take Nigeria to the world!'



Professor Michael Omolewa, 1975
Commonwealth Academic Fellow from Nigeria
and former Nigerian Ambassador and Permanent
Delegate to UNESCO

Nigeria was represented on all key boards and committees of UNESCO during Michael's tenure. He served as President and Chairperson of several commissions, conferences, and working groups, as well as being a member of the Executive Board of UNESCO. During this period, UNESCO Chairs as well as Africa's first Category 2 Cultural Institute were established in Nigeria.

Since retiring from UNESCO, Michael has been elected to the Council of the International African Institute and also served as Founding Member of the Commonwealth Advisory Council on Teacher Migrations, Recruitment and Mobility. He is also in demand as a speaker, giving keynote addresses in countries including the United States and New Zealand, as well as his home country.

Dr Susan Kasedde (2004 Commonwealth Scholar from Uganda, PhD Epidemiology and Population Health, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine) is currently working at UNICEF (United Nations Children's Fund) Headquarters in New York, USA, as Senior Advisor, HIV (Adolescents),



Dr Susan Kasedde, 2004 Commonwealth Scholar
from Uganda and Senior Advisor, HIV (Adolescents)
at UNICEF

working on HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment and care in adolescents.

Susan works with HIV/AIDS teams in seven regional offices with the objective to 'guide and support a stronger, more effective response to HIV/AIDS in adolescents within UNICEF and within the broader global AIDS response'. She plays an important role in helping countries to facilitate and exchange innovative programmes from HIV/AIDS schemes operating in different regions.

Susan has found that her Commonwealth Scholarship was key to equipping her for her future role at UNICEF, and helping her to fulfil her goal of delivering healthcare improvements across the world. 'I am enormously grateful and proud to be a Commonwealth Scholar.'

Alison Stone Roope (1993 Commonwealth Scholar from Jamaica, MPhil International Relations, University of Oxford) is Jamaica's first Ambassador to Brazil. She is a career diplomat, having previously been Director of the Caribbean and Americas Department in the Department of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade in Jamaica.

Opening an embassy in Brazil is an important part of Jamaica's efforts to encourage trade and investment opportunities with one of the emerging BRIC nations, and to strengthen Jamaica's advocacy in the global arena. Alison, who relishes the opportunity to play a leading role in raising Jamaica's economic and strategic position, sees a direct link between her experience as a Commonwealth Scholar and her new diplomatic post. 'The academic and professional connections which I made in my time in England are important to me in my new career phase as an Ambassador, and I regard my own personal goals for the socioeconomic development of my country as far more "doable" because of the knowledge and quality of learning that I experienced through my MPhil at the University of Oxford.'

OUR ALUMNI

Alumni news

SCHOLARSHIP LEADS TO INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES



Dr Benhaji Shaaban Masoud (2008 Commonwealth Scholar from Tanzania, PhD Law, Nottingham Trent University) gained an international perspective on insolvency law during his Scholarship which has transformed his research and career opportunities.

Dr Benhaji Shaaban

Masoud, 2008
Commonwealth Scholar from Tanzania

Following his very positive study experience at Nottingham Trent (where he was the first PhD candidate in three years to pass a viva without corrections), Benhaji has been assigned new responsibilities as Director of Undergraduate Studies and Lecturer in Law at the Open University of Tanzania. He has also maintained an international aspect to his work, recently serving as a Visiting Lecturer in international corporate insolvency law at a university in Rwanda.

Benhaji's Commonwealth Scholarship enabled him to establish contacts among academics in his field in countries in Europe and Africa, as well as Australia and the USA. This collaboration had led to his contribution to the new Oxford International and Comparative Insolvency Law Series, published by Oxford University Press; the second volume in the series is scheduled for publication in October 2013.

COLLABORATION AND CUTTING EDGE RESEARCH IN ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING

Dr Rajagopalan Vijayaraghavan (2011 Commonwealth Academic Fellow from India, Transparent Conducting Oxides, University of Oxford) is Senior Professor and Assistant Director at the Centre for Excellence in Nano Materials at VIT University, India.

During his Fellowship, Rajagopalan and his research group, led by Professor Peter Edwards, focused on advanced electronic materials related to energy applications, such as solar cells. This has since had a major impact on Rajagopalan's current research work in India. 'The Fellowship has been of great help and value to my career, and importantly my collaboration with Professor Edwards is ongoing.'



Professor Peter Edwards, Professor of Inorganic Chemistry at the University of Oxford, and

Dr Rajagopalan Vijayaraghavan, 2011
Commonwealth Academic Fellow from India

Outcomes of the collaboration already include a co-authored book chapter on 'Electronic structure and properties of solids' in Comprehensive Inorganic Chemistry (Elsevier, 2013), and a joint proposal submitted to the UK-India Education and Research Initiative to assist the production of high-quality conducting zinc oxide films. The pair have also developed and tested high-performing thermoelectric oxides, and a patent is planned.

IMPROVING NUTRITION AND HEALTH IN MALAWI

Chiza Kumwenda (2006 Commonwealth Shared Scholar from Malawi, MSc Human Nutrition, University of Glasgow) was a Nutrition Officer in the Malawi Government's Department of Nutrition, HIV and AIDS prior to his Scholarship. Following his Master's degree, which he passed with distinction, Chiza successfully applied for a PhD course in Finland, and is now in the final year of his PhD at the University of Tampere.



Chiza Kumwenda,
2006 Commonwealth Shared Scholar from Malawi

Chiza says that his Commonwealth Scholarship was pivotal to his PhD application, and is enabling him to improve health and nutrition in his home country. He wants 'to influence government policy to broaden peoples' understanding of nutrition' in Malawi, where 47% of children are suffering from stunted growth as a result of a poor diet.

Chiza has already worked with the University of Malawi to develop a nutrition syllabus for schools and colleges. At the Department of Nutrition, HIV and AIDS, he aims to use NGOs, volunteers, and community workers to disseminate information on healthy nutrition.

COST-EFFECTIVE SANITATION UPGRADE IN UGANDA

Edward Bwengye-Kahororo (2002 Commonwealth Scholar from Uganda, MSc Water and Environmental Management, Loughborough University) is a Waste and Sanitation Specialist at the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) Uganda, and faces the challenge of modernising sanitation to improve health and environmental conditions with limited resources.



A schoolchild assists with a pit latrine project run by **Edward Bwengye-Kahororo, 2002**
Commonwealth Scholar from Uganda

Edward has been working on the upgrade of sanitation where pit latrines are used. 'It can be difficult to manage odours, flies and associated health risks, but septic tanks are too expensive.' His team has used effective microorganism (EMO) technology, which involves growing, applying, managing, and re-establishing high populations of beneficial microorganisms in the latrine environment.

Within three weeks of the EMO application into 40 school pit latrines, there was a marked sludge reduction that had significant pollution and cost benefits. Improvements were even greater when plant leaf-based cleaning products were used. The pit latrines also showed a decrease in fly and insect colonies, providing a cleaner environment for the children. The work by the sanitation specialists at UNICEF has also enabled wider hygiene education within the schools, which is in turn increasing the health benefits of the new sanitation system.

Awards and prizes

Eric Gyan (2010 Commonwealth Shared Scholar from Ghana, MSc Cancer Immunology and Biotechnology, University of Nottingham) has won the British Council's Most Effective Ambassador award, acknowledging his efforts to widen awareness of the study and



Eric Gyan, 2010
Commonwealth Shared Scholar from Ghana

Have you changed job or 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.



Dr Jaishankar Karuppanan, 2009 Commonwealth Academic Fellow from India

scholarship opportunities available for Ghanaian students at the University of Nottingham. Eric is currently researching the medical application of a local plant in cancer treatment at the University of Cape Coast, Ghana.

Dr Jaishankar Karuppanan (2009 Commonwealth Academic Fellow from India, Criminology, University of Leeds) has been named as the National Academy of Sciences, India-Scopus Young Scientist Of The Year 2012 for Social Sciences.

Professor Hennie Lotter (2004 Commonwealth Academic Fellow from South Africa, Justice and Poverty, University of Oxford) has received the University of Johannesburg Vice-Chancellor's Award for Teaching Excellence.

Alice Meyer (2011 Commonwealth Scholar from South Africa, MA Victorian Literature and Culture, Royal Holloway, University of London) has been awarded a Gates Cambridge Scholarship to study for a PhD in English, starting in October 2013.

Publications

Dr Terri-Ann Gilbert-Roberts (2007 Commonwealth Scholar from Jamaica, PhD Regional Governance, University of Sheffield) has published *The Politics of Integration: Caribbean Sovereignty Revisited* (Ian Randle Publishers, Jamaica, 2013), which is a revised version of her doctoral thesis.

Adam Lewandowski (2009 Commonwealth Scholar from Canada, DPhil Cardiovascular Medicine, University of Oxford) has published an article titled 'Preterm Heart in Adult Life: Cardiovascular Magnetic Resonance Reveals Distinct Differences in Left Ventricular Mass, Geometry, and Function', arising from his doctoral research, in *Circulation* (127: 197-206, 2013).

Dr Masuma Pervin Mishu (2010 Commonwealth Scholar from Bangladesh, MSc Dental Public Health, University College London) has published a paper based on his MSc research, titled 'Relationship between Untreated Dental Caries and Weight and Height of 6- to 12-Year-Old Primary School Children in Bangladesh', in the *International Journal of Dentistry* (Volume 2013, 2013).



Justice Winston Anderson, 1994 Commonwealth Fellow from Jamaica

Anwar Azad Palakkan (2010 Commonwealth Split-site Scholar from India, PhD Tissue Engineering, Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute for Medical Science and Technology and the University of Edinburgh) has co-authored an article titled 'Liver tissue engineering and cell sources: issues and challenges', based on research carried out during his time in the UK and published in *Liver International* (Volume 33, Issue 5, May 2013).

Recent appointments

Honourable Mr Justice Winston Anderson (1994 Commonwealth Fellow from Jamaica, Environmental/Health Care Law, University of Sheffield) has been appointed to the United Nations Environment Programme's (UNEP) International Advisory Council for the Advancement of Justice, Governance and Law for Sustainable Development.

Dr Mohan Vithalrao Aware (2010 Commonwealth Fellow from India, Multiphase Multilevel Inverters for Induction Motor Drives, Liverpool John Moores University) has been appointed Head of the Electrical Engineering Department at the Visvesvaraya National Institute of Technology, India

Professor Joan Beaumont (1971 Commonwealth Scholar from Australia, PhD War Studies, King's College London) has been appointed Fellow of the Australian Institute of International Affairs in recognition of her distinguished contribution to research in the history of foreign policy, defence and war.

Dr Shaheen Begum (2008 Commonwealth Scholar from Pakistan, PhD Environment, University of York) has been appointed Assistant Professor in Environmental Sciences at Fatima Jinnah Women University, Pakistan.

Dr Sithy Iqbal (1983 Commonwealth Scholar from Sri Lanka, PhD



Dr Shaheen Begum, 2008 Commonwealth Scholar from Pakistan



Dr Geeta Oberoi, 2008 Commonwealth Split-site Scholar from India

Chemistry, University of Manchester) has been appointed Dean of the Faculty of Natural Sciences at the Open University of Sri Lanka.

Dr Lami Angela Nnamonu (2008 Commonwealth Split-site Scholar from Nigeria, PhD Agrochemical Technology, University of Agriculture, Makurdi and Durham University) has been promoted to Senior Lecturer in the Department of Chemistry and appointed Acting Director of the Centre for Agrochemical Technology at the Federal University of Agriculture Makurdi, Nigeria.

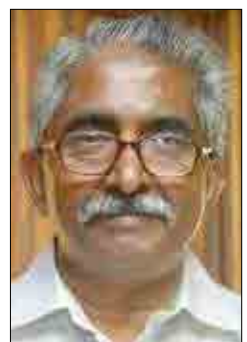
Professor Upali De Silva Jayawardena (2011 Commonwealth Fellow from Sri Lanka, Civil Engineering, Cardiff University) has been appointed Professor of Civil Engineering in the Department of Civil Engineering at the University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka.

Dr Geeta Oberoi (2008 Commonwealth Split-site Scholar from India, PhD Law, University of Delhi and University of Warwick) has been appointed Director of the Institute for Judicial and Legal Studies, Mauritius.

Professor Michael Omolewa (1975 Commonwealth Fellow from Nigeria, History of Adult Education, King's College London) has been appointed Emeritus Professor at the University of Ibadan, Nigeria.

Dr Pritam Sharma (2002 Commonwealth Academic Fellow from India, Post-Harvest Technology, Queen's University Belfast) has been appointed Head of the Division of Horticultural Crop Processing at the Central Institute of Post-Harvest Engineering and Technology, India.

Professor Kudlu Sudhakara (1987 Commonwealth Scholar from India, Diploma in Forestry, University of Aberdeen) has been appointed Dean of the Faculty of Forestry at Kerala Agricultural University, India.



Professor Kudlu Sudhakara, 1987 Commonwealth Scholar from India

IMPROVING CONSERVATION IN THE AFRICAN SAVANNAH

Commonwealth Scholar **Kabelo Senyatso** was the inaugural winner of the 2012 Taylor & Francis Commonwealth Scholar Best Journal Article Prize. Here, we find out more about his work and the ideas behind his winning paper.

Dr Kabelo Senyatso is a 2007 Commonwealth Scholar from Botswana, who studied PhD Conservation Ecology at the University of East Anglia. The motivation for his PhD was evidence suggesting that many widely distributed low-density tropical wildlife species are declining. 'Whether protected areas mitigate causal threats is poorly studied. Lack of monitoring data and poorly understood species ecology limits understanding of patterns, causal mechanisms, and the degree of abundance or range declines.'

Working in an African savannah context, where bushmeat hunting and cattle grazing are considered the greatest threats to wildlife, Kabelo's thesis studied the conservation ecology of widely distributed wildlife at three spatial scales: home range, landscape-wide, and continent-wide.

Kabelo used data from satellite transmitters deployed on six Kori Bustards (*Ardeotis kori*) – Africa's heaviest flying bird – in Botswana's Central Kalahari Game Reserve during December 2008-March 2011 to investigate seasonal effects on home range size, site-fidelity, and association with pan (low-lying, mineral-rich clay soils) and non-pan (upland sandy soils) habitats.

His analysis found that Kori are likely sedentary in Botswana, with strong site-fidelity to dry-season home ranges associated with resource-rich pan habitats. The species appears sensitive to localised habitat conditions, thus the broader trends at landscape- and continent-wide scales are largely influenced by localised habitat and threats.

At the landscape-wide scale, an assessment of the differential response of Kori and 20 other medium and large-bodied vertebrates in protected areas, wildlife management areas, and unprotected areas showed that most species' abundance was driven by proximity to human settlement. Further analysis also demonstrated that cattle can affect habitat structure, but that their effects on Kalahari wildlife were not perceptible, suggesting that conservationists' preoccupation with cattle and their perceived impact, rather than unregulated hunting, in African savannahs may be misplaced.

Kabelo was awarded the 2012 Taylor & Francis Commonwealth Scholar Best Journal Article Prize for his article titled 'Assessing range-wide conservation status change in an unmonitored widespread African bird species', published in *Diversity and Distributions – A Journal of Conservation Biogeography* (Volume 19, Issue 2, 2013). For the paper, the continent-wide conservation status of Kori Bustards was assessed by reviewing occurrence records (spanning the years 1863-2009) across a range of 14 African countries.

Range contraction was quantified by examining the proportion of historical records (pre-1970) falling within the area delineated by recent records (1970-2009), finding 8% (southern Africa) and 21% (east Africa) declines in 146 years. In contrast, qualitative evidence from historical published accounts and contemporary expert assessments suggested widespread declines in abundance – so, numbers have declined considerably, but without commensurate range contraction. The paper reports a novel methodology to assess the conservation status of widespread low-density species across their entire geographic range, in the absence of systematic monitoring – a common situation facing conservation in developing countries.

Kabelo's paper demonstrates that it is possible to systematically collate and analyse large numbers of incidental occurrence records, qualitative published statements, and interviews with in-country experts to assess the extent to which ranges and numbers have changed. The findings and the methodology should be of interest to conservationists in data-poor countries, as the populations of many widespread species in developing regions, including Africa, are thought to be declining across their geographic range without the range itself showing evidence of contraction; however, systematic, long-term, large-



Kabelo Senyatso (right), 2007 Commonwealth Scholar from Botswana, fitting a satellite transmitter onto a Kori Bustard

scale datasets suitable to examine the extent of declines are lacking.

Janet Remington, Editorial Director at Taylor & Francis, congratulated Kabelo on his prize win. 'This is a lucidly-written article arising from careful data gathering and analysis, which has wide application and appeal. His work on the Kori Bustard makes a notable contribution to ornithological knowledge and conservation efforts. Fittingly, he selected *Ostrich*, the journal of BirdLife South Africa (which Taylor & Francis co-publishes with NISC), as the journal subscription component of the prize. Taylor & Francis looks forward to ongoing support of the Best Journal Article Prize and to recognising the valuable work of early-career Commonwealth Scholars.'

Kabelo, who is now Director of BirdLife Botswana, continues to research many of the issues raised by his PhD, with an emphasis on investigating how to measure and improve the conservation efficacy of protected areas and the widely-promoted wildlife management areas, while at the same time maximising the societal benefits of these land use zones and their natural resources.

ALUMNI PROFILE

In this issue, we look at the valuable research contributions made by three Commonwealth Scholars who were also entrants in the 2012 Taylor & Francis Commonwealth Scholar Best Journal Article Prize.

Hayley Crawford (2005 Commonwealth Scholar from South Africa, DPhil Immunology of HIV Infection, University of Oxford) submitted an article for the 2012 Taylor & Francis Commonwealth Scholar Best Journal Article Prize titled 'Evolution of HLA-B*5703 HIV-1 escape mutations in HLA-B*5703-positive individuals and their transmission recipients', published in the *Journal of Experimental Medicine* (Volume 206, Issue 4, 2009).

The article describes how the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) cripples itself in order to hide from the immune system. It demonstrates how HIV evolves within individuals with certain immune system genes, and how this affects the amount of HIV in these people and the people that they may infect.

The paper reports on 645 HIV-infected black South Africans, and 178 HIV-infected black Zambians, all infected with a similar global subtype of HIV, recruited at sites at the heart of the global AIDS epidemic.

The research highlights just how powerful CD8+ T cells are at suppressing HIV, since the virus will cripple itself just to evade these responses. It suggests a potential benefit of a CD8+ T cell vaccine.

The majority of vaccines in use today are antibody-eliciting vaccines. But the success of an antibody vaccine against HIV has been lacking; these vaccines are difficult to design, and may be ineffective against HIV infection that is started by infected cells (antibodies target free viruses outside cells). While a preventative vaccine is the ultimate objective, a therapeutic vaccine, given to already-infected people with an aim to control their infection, is also a goal. A T cell vaccine would be both preventative and therapeutic.

Emma Link (2004 Commonwealth Scholar from Australia, DPhil Clinical Medicine, University of Oxford) submitted an article for the Best Journal Article Prize titled 'SLCO1B1 Variants and Statin-Induced Myopathy – A Genomewide Study', published as a first-author original article in the *New England Journal of Medicine* (Volume 359, Issue 8, 2008).



Emma Link, 2004 Commonwealth Scholar from Australia

Large-scale randomised evidence shows that statin drug therapy reduces the incidence of heart attacks, strokes, and revascularisation procedures, and it is estimated that over 30 million people worldwide are now taking statins. However, rarely statins can damage muscles causing pain, weakness, or even muscle breakdown, with release of myoglobin leading to the risk of renal failure and death.

This genome-wide association study typed over 318,000 genetic markers in 85 subjects with definite or incipient myopathy (muscular disease) and 90 controls, all of whom were taking 80 mg of simvastatin daily as part of a trial involving 12,000 participants.

Emma and her colleague discovered that one genomic region containing the SLCO1B1 gene was associated with myopathy. This finding was then confirmed in another large trial of 40 mg of simvastatin taken daily involving 20,000 participants. The number of copies of one particular variant accounted for up to 60% of the myopathy risk. These results will lead to more effective and safer treatment of individuals at risk of cardiovascular disease.

As one of the earliest genome-wide association studies in risk factor identification for side-effects of common cholesterol-lowering medications, Emma's research has had an impact both socially and academically. She is currently a Senior Statistician at the Centre for Biostatistics and Clinical Trials, Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre, Australia.

Timothy Phakathi (2005 Commonwealth Scholar from South Africa, DPhil Social and Economic Development Policy, University of Oxford) submitted an article for the Best Journal Article Prize titled "'Getting on" and "getting by" underground: Gold miners' informal working practice of making a plan



Timothy Phakathi, 2005 Commonwealth Scholar from South Africa

(planisa)', due to be published in the *Journal of Organisational Ethnography* (Volume 2, Issue 2, 2013).

Timothy's research was an ethnographic workplace study of underground gold miners' subjective experience of work and their responses to organisational dysfunctions and management inefficiencies in deep-level gold mining.

The paper focuses on the interaction between formal (official) and informal (unofficial) work arrangements. While a number of workplace studies present workers' informal strategies as restricting rather than expanding output, the gold miners' informal working practice of making a plan (planisa) is geared largely towards facilitating production rather than resisting it, despite the repercussions on worker safety.

Several elements of the research demonstrate the originality of Timothy's DPhil, such as the examination of the problem of labour control and employee consent in a hazardous working place. The paper focuses largely on the workers' informal strategy of making a plan, but it also highlights management collusion in the bending of workplace rules and perpetuation of planisa in the underground mining workplace.

Timothy's DPhil has assisted his career, and is also helping him to improve working conditions in the mining sector. He is currently Deputy Head: Safety and Sustainable Development at the Chamber of Mines of South Africa, where he has been implementing the minister-backed Culture Transformation Framework and is working with stakeholders to ensure safer workplace conditions for the industry.

OUR IMPACT

The CSC Evaluation Team is currently undertaking a review of the Commonwealth Professional Fellowship scheme. *Kathryn Scurfield* explains more.

The CSC Professional Fellowship scheme began in 2002 as a professional development programme with aims to have catalytic effects on international development by enhancing the skills of mid-career professionals. Since then, a total of 745 Professional Fellowships have been awarded to individuals from developing Commonwealth countries, with the greatest number being awarded in 2012. The general increase in the number of the Professional Fellowships awarded over the past decade (see Figure 1) highlights the CSC's recognition of the immediate benefits that the awards have on organisational and national development.

The Professional Fellowship scheme provides funding for professionals to undertake placements at various UK-based organisations, normally for three months. Candidates are nominated and hosted by organisations ranging from international NGOs, such as VSO, to charities, such as the Terrence Higgins Trust, as well as those in both the public and private sector. The scheme ultimately seeks to benefit the Fellow, their employer, and, in the longer term, their home country, as well as the UK host organisation, and to act as a tool for international collaboration.

The development focus of the Professional Fellowship scheme is reflected in the fact that priority is given to applicants who are seeking to gain practical experience in the areas of agriculture/fisheries/forestry, economic growth, education, engineering/science/technology, environment, governance, or public health.

Applications are invited from organisations in the UK willing to set up a programme of activity and either host the Fellow themselves or facilitate a link with another host organisation. A programme can include time spent within the organisation itself, learning from colleagues in a structured manner, as well as time spent at other organisations in the UK and at conferences, and a limited time on short courses. In line with the CSC's mandate, the nominating/host organisation must also be able to show that their programme can have demonstrable development impact in the Fellow's home country.

The CSC's review of the Commonwealth Professional Fellowship scheme aims to provide an overview of the scheme to date, including an examination of data collected since the scheme began in 2002, and to identify the scheme's potential outcomes and development impact to further demonstrate the benefits that the CSC's awards provide.



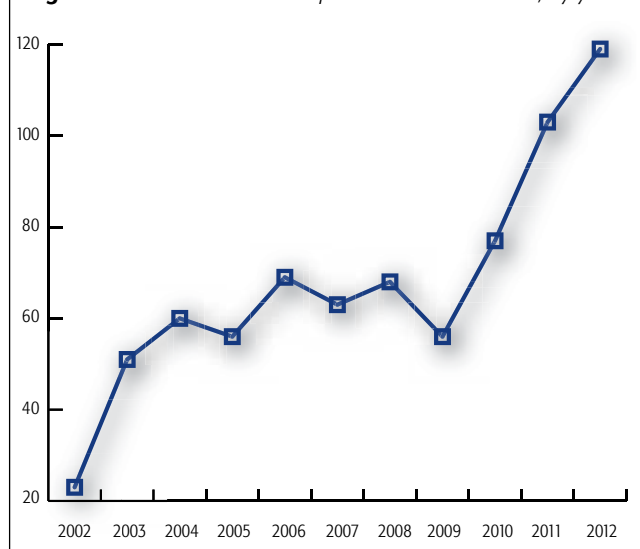
Commonwealth Professional Fellows and staff from the CSC Secretariat at a focus group discussion in November 2012

In order to collect more robust evidence, a new method of data collection for Professional Fellows is being implemented. Going forward, Fellows will be sent a total of three surveys: one six months after they have completed their award, another after 18 months, and the third after 36 months. Additionally, each individual Fellow's host and employing organisations will also be sent surveys that aim to measure impact. This will allow for data triangulation and verification, which will better inform the assessment of programme effectiveness.

As part of the review, the Evaluation Team held a focus group discussion (FGD) in November 2012 with a small group of Professional Fellows who were coming to the end of their award. The purpose of the FGD was to collect qualitative data that answered key questions regarding pre-, during and post-award experiences, as well as to foster relations between the CSC and the Fellows. Overall, the FGD revealed very positive results; all the Fellows showed keen enthusiasm for the scheme, and all stated that it provided valuable skills and experience both professionally and personally.

A separate FGD was held in December 2012 for host organisations participating in the programme. The day was not only a way for the Evaluation Team to find out about experiences and motivations for hosts wanting to participate in the scheme, but also a networking opportunity for the attendees. The event provided insightful information which helped shape how the Evaluation Team measures the impact of the scheme. All of these results will be shared in the review, which is set to be published in late 2013.

Figure 1: Professional Fellowships awarded 2002-2012, by year



INTRODUCING NEW SCHOLARS TO EVALUATION

Faruk Barabhuiya reports on evaluation activities at last year's Welcome Programme for new Commonwealth Scholars and Fellows.



An evaluation breakout session at the CSC Welcome Programme 2012

The annual Welcome Programme provides a rare opportunity to bring together many of the new intake of Commonwealth Scholars and Fellows to meet each other, as well as members of the Commission and staff at the Secretariat and the British Council.

In 2012, the programme featured breakout sessions that gave the Scholars and Fellows a chance to consider and discuss the potential development impact of the work they would shortly be undertaking. The sessions also enabled the CSC Evaluation Team to highlight the importance of identifying the benefits that ensue from a Commonwealth Scholarship or Fellowship, particularly from a development viewpoint, and how these affect award holders' home countries and regions.

For the sessions, Scholars and Fellows were divided into groups based on their level or type of study. Each group was given the same set of questions which aimed to encourage them to reflect on

the effect that their studies and subsequent work would have on the development of their home countries. Discussions were informal and often free-ranging, and each group was guided by a Commissioner, who started the sessions by asking the award holders to think about why the CSC funds

“The breakout group session was both thought-provoking and engaging. Coupled with the opportunity to work with and learn from Scholars, I thought that session was the most effective in getting Scholars to know each other in just a one-hour window.”

Welcome Programme 2012 participant

scholarships and fellowships. The conversation then moved on to what they expected to do differently upon their return home as a result of what they learnt, and how the CSC might track their impact.

For the Evaluation Team, the breakout sessions provide an environment to emphasise the

development focus of our awards. Ensuring that Scholars and Fellows are aware that the UK Department for International Development is our major funder and informing them of our Evaluation Programme and its aims should have two effects. Firstly, it will contribute to award holders considering their own development impact at all stages of their studies, which in the long term will hopefully improve the impact that they can have. Secondly, increased awareness of the importance of development and of our evaluation activities will encourage award holders to take part in the Evaluation Programme as an essential and important part of their Commonwealth Scholarship or Fellowship.

Running the breakout sessions also allows the Evaluation Team to meet Scholars and Fellows in person to explain the purpose and significance of our work, which is important due to the long-term nature of evaluation. When we contact Scholars and Fellows one or three years after they have completed their awards, asking them to participate in an online survey or a short interview for a case study for the Evaluation Programme, we want them to be able to put a face to the name and understand what they will be contributing to.

Overall, feedback from the Scholars and Fellows at the Welcome Programme was positive; they were keen to find out about the CSC's aims and objectives, reflect on how they can help their home countries, and meet other award holders and discuss ideas. Those who are not studying or working in the specific field of international development appreciated the opportunity to consider what development means and its implications in today's world, and all valued the chance to critically assess the role of development and their own participation and contribution to it.

Given the success of the breakout sessions, the Evaluation Team intends to make them a permanent part of the annual Welcome Programme, as part of increased promotion of our expanded Evaluation Programme. There are also plans to provide Commonwealth Scholars who are studying PhDs with additional specific training on a similar theme.

NETWORKS AND EVENTS

COMMONWEALTH DAY 2013

On 11 March 2013, Commonwealth Scholars, Fellows, Commissioners, and staff from the CSC Secretariat attended the Commonwealth Day Observance at Westminster Abbey.

The event marked the start of the Commonwealth Week celebrations, exploring this year's theme of 'Opportunity through enterprise'. The Observance was a high-profile event, attended by His Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh, and with speeches from Ricken Patel (founder of Aavaaz), Sir Richard Branson, and Kamalesh Sharma (Commonwealth Secretary-General).

Highlights from the event included performances from Beverley Knight MBE and The Noisettes, as well as the 'Living the Dream' dance company, who performed a medley of dance from around the Commonwealth.



Scholars and Fellows attending the **Commonwealth Day Observance 2013**

Taiwo (University of Edinburgh Representative), the event was attended by more than 40 Scholars and Fellows from ten different institutions in Scotland. All attendees were encouraged to introduce themselves and talk about their backgrounds, current study, and aims when they return home, before a group photo and lunch. The event was an excellent opportunity to meet people who share both similar and diverse academic interests and cultural backgrounds, as well as providing valuable suggestions for future Regional Network events.

as publications, conference presentations, or new appointments.

The CSC is currently working with individual coordinators to identify several key topics to include in posts, reflecting developments in the field or the interests of the membership of each group. If you have any topics which you would like to see highlighted in the coming year, please share your views on the relevant network group page, or email professional.networks@cscuk.org.uk

Regional Networks

The Regional Networks aim to provide opportunities for interaction between Commonwealth Scholars and Fellows within the same region, in order to generate a strong community for all those on award in the UK. With this in mind, activity in many of the networks has been expanding over recent months, with additional events and, in particular, the creation of Regional Network Facebook groups.

The Facebook groups are designed to increase networking opportunities for current Scholars and Fellows, allowing members to share photos, organise events and activities, and keep in touch throughout the year. Five Regional Networks have active groups, with the three remaining networks set to be up and running by the start of the next academic year.

To join your local Regional Network or Facebook group, visit bit.ly/cscuk-regional-networks

SCOTLAND

The Scotland Regional Network held a large get-together event in April 2013 at the University of Edinburgh. Organised by Meshack Efeoma (Regional Coordinator) with the support of Moyosore

Professional Networks

The Commonwealth Scholarships group on LinkedIn provides an easy way for our Scholars, Fellows and alumni to post general items of interest to the CSC community.

Our eight Professional Networks enable discussions on more specific areas of professional interest, or to share news of any recent achievements such

NEW SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY NETWORK COORDINATOR

Mahesh de Silva is the new coordinator of the Science and Technology Professional Network. Mahesh has a PhD in Electrical Engineering from the University of Cambridge, and works as a Senior Design Engineer at a UK-based company. His areas of interest include renewable energy, climate change, and product development and innovation.

Mahesh is delighted to have taken on this new role. 'I will be making regular posts on the latest news and research developments, grants and fellowships information, and forthcoming conferences or seminars. I am keen to facilitate discussion among members. I will also make an effort to cover different regions and interests of the membership.'

Mahesh de Silva,
the new coordinator
of the CSC Science
and Technology
Professional Network



Scholars and Fellows at the **Scotland Regional Network event** in April 2013

Alumni events

DEVELOPING THE POTENTIAL OF CSC MASTER'S STUDENTS

25 alumni from a number of different east African countries met for a two-day workshop organised by Commonwealth Scholarship Commissioner Ros Wade, in Kampala, Uganda, in October 2012. The workshop aimed to help the alumni maximise the impact of their studies and to support them in making plans to embark upon doctoral studies or to publish their work. It also allowed alumni to share ideas and experiences and to reflect upon their potential for future development impact.

The workshop considered the challenges and opportunities of doctoral study and looked at how to develop ideas for a PhD proposal. Experienced tutors shared their expertise as PhD supervisors and addressed concerns and questions about the process.

During the workshop, the alumni also participated in a joint half-day conference on 'Sustainable Development: Issues for Africa' with Master's students from London South Bank University (LSBU) and the Uganda Management Institute (UMI).

Keynote speaker Dr Daniel Babikwa of the National Environment Management Authority endorsed the importance of education for the future sustainable development of Africa. He thanked the CSC for its contribution to building capacity in African universities, civil society, and private sector organisations.

A stimulating debate followed during a Question Time panel comprising UMI and LSBU tutors, which was chaired by Dr Hugh Atkinson of LSBU. Speaker after speaker criticised current educational systems and highlighted the importance of putting sustainability and innovation at the core of all education and learning, whether academic, vocational, or informal.

Following this, a number of former Commonwealth Scholars gave presentations at the workshop on their current work, providing an impressive demonstration of their ability to be effective agents for change by making an impact in their organisations and countries.

Dr Patricia Mwebaze-Songa (2007 Commonwealth Scholar from Uganda, MSc Public Health, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine) presented her work on 'Leveraging local resources to improve maternal and child health services as Uganda aims to meet its 2015 MDG 4 and 5 targets'. Patricia is a medical doctor and has over 11 years of clinical and operational research experience. She is currently a Coordinator for Saving Mothers Giving Life, a



Former Commonwealth Scholars and Fellows at the two-day **alumni workshop in Uganda** in October 2012

as well as other guests including Dr John Murton, Deputy British High Commissioner, and Hugh Moffat, Kenya British Council Country Director.

During the meeting, chapter officials led by Dr Maurice Okoth

US-funded operational research project which aims to reduce maternal and newborn mortality in four rural Ugandan districts by 50% in a year.

Choolwe Haamukwanza (2009 Commonwealth Distance Learning Scholar from Zambia, MSc Education for Sustainability, London South Bank University) gave a presentation on 'Understanding deforestation problems through education for sustainability in rural communities: the case of Mumbwa Central Community in Zambia'. Choolwe has worked for the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) Zambia and Caritas Zambia. His current role is at the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Zambia, where he works with local communities to promote community-based natural resources management and environmental education.

Jimmy Ssentongo (2008 Commonwealth Distance Learning Scholar from Uganda, MSc Education for Sustainability, London South Bank University), another workshop attendee, has already secured a scholarship to study for a PhD at a university in the Netherlands. He has been embedding education for sustainability within staff training at his home institution, Uganda Martyrs University, leading on curriculum change in Ugandan universities.

Ros Wade was impressed with the passion and commitment of all the alumni who attended the workshop. 'They are acting as agents for transformation in so many challenging contexts – they are a real inspiration and hope for the future.'

KENYA CHAPTER ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The CSC Kenya Chapter met for its third Annual General Meeting in May 2013, hosted by the British Council in Nairobi. 42 chapter members attended,



Alumni and guests at the **Annual General Meeting of the CSC Kenya Chapter** in May 2013

(2009 Commonwealth Academic Fellow, Physical Chemistry, University of Strathclyde), the Chapter President Philip Mbugua (2005 Commonwealth Professional Fellow, Community Service Volunteers), the Membership Officer Joshua Ongwae (2007 Commonwealth Distance Learning Scholar, MSc Education for Sustainability, London South Bank University), Jonathan Chelanga (2010 Commonwealth Distance Learning Scholar, MSc Global Programme in Development Management, Open University) and Caroline Oyugi (2005 Commonwealth Distance Learning Scholar, PG Cert Nursing, University of Dundee) took members through the chapter structure and constitution.

Maurice also gave a report on the chapter's activities over the last year, and challenged members to continue their programme of events and encourage other Kenyan alumni to participate. Other topics of discussion included chapter finances, member subscriptions, and the chapter strategic plan.

Hugh Moffat spoke of his expectation for the future role of the association in 'giving something back' to fellow Kenyans at both professional and social levels. Both guests expressed excitement at working more closely with the chapter in the future.

The chapter would like to thank the British Council and the British High Commission in Kenya for helping make the event a success.

CSC PROFESSIONAL NETWORKS

The CSC has seven Professional Networks for both current Scholars and Fellows in a range of professional subject areas:

- Agriculture and Rural Development
- Economics and Finance
- Education
- Environment
- Gender
- Governance
- Public Health
- Science and Technology

To join a Network, you first need to sign up to LinkedIn, and then join the Commonwealth Scholarships parent group at [linkd.in/commonwealthscholarships](https://www.linkedin.com/groups/11111111) – once you are a member, you can then join any of the CSC Professional Network subgroups.



COMMONWEALTH SCHOLARSHIPS

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

The CSC supports over 800 awards annually. Awards are funded by UKaid from the Department for International Development (for developing Commonwealth countries) and 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; overseas services are provided by the British Council.

The Commonwealth Scholarship and Fellowship Plan (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.

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