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The IDRC Alumni provides opportunities for former IDRC employees to maintain personal and professional links, and supports continuing dialogue on development issues.

Bulletin

No. 58 July 2019

Annual General Meeting & Luncheon: Tuesday, November 12, 2019

Honoring MENA (MERO in bygone days)

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IN MEMORIAM

Stephen Rosell

Thanks to Michèle Wilson for Translation.

Wish to support the IDRC Alumni Association? Contributions can be made annually or over a three-year period:

1 year	\$25
2 years	\$45
3 years	\$65

Cheques payable to the **IDRC Alumni Association**.

Return to: Kim Daley, 452 River Rd, Ottawa, ON. K1V 1E7

Electronic transfer is also possible for Alumni across Canada and in other parts of the world who have Canadian accounts. For details contact Gerald Bourrier <bici@sympatico.ca>

Annual General Meeting & Luncheon: Tuesday, November 12, 2019
Honoring MENA
Watch for the invitation and RSVP through [Evite](#)

From the Chair

Rob Robertson

UNFORGOTTEN

I am writing this on June 23, 2019. It is a warm and bright Sunday morning in Ottawa just as it was thirty-four years ago to the day when we awoke to the awful news of the Air India bombing. A 747 had exploded off the coast of Ireland killing 329 people including IDRC Governor Dr. Yelavarthy Nayudamma, returning home from a Board meeting in Ottawa. It was the greatest mass murder in Canadian history, an act of political retribution by Sikh militants based in Vancouver. A commission of investigation concluded that the failure to prevent the crime was due to a “cascading series of errors” by our security agencies.

The victims are remembered in memorials in County Cork Ireland and in Canadian cities, including one in Commissioners Park in Ottawa. IDRC awarded five post-doctoral fellowships in Dr. Nayudamma’s name to the Central Leather Research Institute in Chennai, and named its Governor’s lounge in his honour. And yet, there is a feeling that the Air India disaster has not been well remembered, perhaps because so many on board were new Canadians. One academic has written, “The Canadian families of the dead wonder year after year why no one but them seems to care, or why their grief is seen as less worthy than that of others who are more openly taken into the nation’s heart.”



And so, let us remember one of those lost. A biography of Dr. Nayudamma entitled *The People’s Scientist* says this about him:



He was a scientist of the people and for the people, obsessed by a concern for the poor in rural India. Born as the eldest child of simple and illiterate parents in a remote village in Andhra Pradesh, through merit and sheer hard work he was able to study in the UK and the USA, becoming the first Indian ever to receive a Phd in leather technology. In 1959 he was named by Prime Minister Nehru as the head of the Central Leather Research Institute in Madras. When Nehru asked him what he would do if appointed as the youngest person ever to head a national institute, Dr. Nayudamma answered, “I’ll endeavour to infuse scientific temper to the tradition-bound leather industry, so we can uplift the socially and economically downtrodden leather artisans.” Thirteen years later Indira Gandhi named him to head the nation’s Council of Scientific and Industrial Research. In the next six years he completely overhauled and rejuvenated it.”

Dr. Nayudamma once described himself as “a farmer by birth and a cobbler by trade.” Clearly he was more than that. He was a person who exemplified IDRC’s ethic of using science and technology for the benefit of the poor. Today in India that is the memory of him that remains. Terrorism is always about loss. Dr. Nayudamma was lost to the poor and lost to IDRC that warm and bright Sunday. But his example was not.

Alumni News

Dr. Beatrice Avalos honoured...



Dr. Beatrice Avalos was associated with the Social Science Division's Education Programme in the early years of the Centre.

Beatrice was in Toronto in April 2019 to be honoured with the [Michael Huberman award for Outstanding Scholarship on the Lives of Teachers](#), which is an American Education Research Association ([AERA](#)) yearly award.

At the meeting, Beatrice made a presentation on her life as a researcher since completing her doctoral degree. She highlighted work supported by IDRC, first as assistant coordinator of the Research Review and Advisory Group (RRAG) when she coordinated the review of research on teachers in developing countries, work in the [IEA](#) Classroom Environment Study based at the Ontario Institute for studies in Education and finally, the study on teachers and teaching in four Latin American countries, published as *Teaching the Children of the Poor: An Ethnographic Study in Latin America* (1986).

Beatrice's research in education was also recognized in 2013 with the Chilean National Prize in Education.

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Clyde Sanger remembers...

On my habitual first read of the day, the Globe and Mail's feature obituary, for April 25, I spotted an I



REMEMBER written by Clyde Sanger. He was remembering [Meyer Brownstone](#) when he "happily shared the time that he headed Oxfam Canada for 17 years from 1975 and contributed to change in Southern Africa. In one well timed expedition months ahead of crucial elections, his few, firm words pushed political change, I believe, a remarkable distance."

The occasion was an Oxfam-organized fact-finding election observing team in South West Africa with 12 days travelling in an elderly VW Kombi. There were six Canadians on the team and Clyde mentions that his "job each morning was to stuff Flora's sleeping bag into its sack". Flora, of course, was Flora MacDonald, one time Canada's Minister of Foreign Affairs and for a time Chair of the IDRC's Board of Governors.

Clyde's full remembrance is found [here](#). It is one of many an untold story of the inspiration and effort that drives good works. It was the mention of the VW Kombi van and the image of Flora's sleeping bag that brought a smiles and a thought...how lucky IDRC was to have been associated with sterling people...like Clyde and Flora...for whom Canada's efforts for international development were *raison d'être*...to be pursued if necessary, in camper vans and nights under the stars rather than in multi starred hotels.



Ed

Attention!! AFNS!!

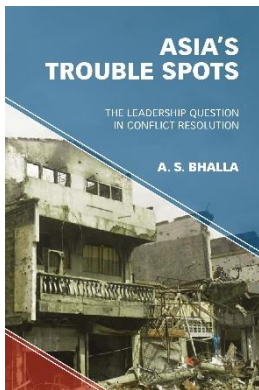


It's time for another AFNS Newsletter. Paul Stinson has recently contacted everyone on his email list about contributing a note. In case you have anything to include, please contact Paul at Paul@caprainc.com. Aiming to publish on 1 September 2019.

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Alumni in Print

Ajit Bhalla



Asia's Trouble Spots: The leadership question in conflict resolution. Rowan & Littlefield, Publication Date: September. 2019
Pages 256. Paper 9781786608352; Hard 9781786608369; Ebook 9781786608376

“Although much is published in this space, much of the existing literature fails to adequately answer the question as to why ethnic conflicts have remained unresolved for decades. Many factors are often cited as the root causes of the conflicts: low state capacity, poor governance, ethno-nationalism, religious intolerance, poverty and marginalization of minority groups and colonial heritage. We argue that conflicts have remained unresolved for so long for a lack of political commitment and farsighted leadership in the countries concerned.

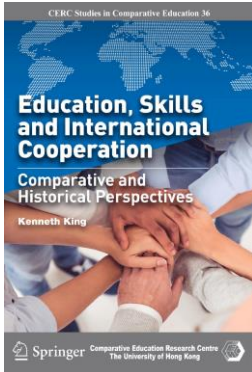
Furthermore, leadership in the developed world and the international community has also directly or indirectly allowed the conflicts to continue for global geopolitical reasons. Western leaders have often failed to mediate to resolve conflicts.”

“This book helpfully focuses on a number of Asian conflicts, some well-known, others less so, and how they were (or were not) resolved. This is important for several reasons: Asia is *the* rising continent of the 21st century, and many of its countries are beset by internal tensions and outright conflicts sometimes fuelled in part by neighbouring states. The pattern is not likely soon to abate. Therefore, studying both the Asian failures and the successes identified in the volume makes a very useful contribution to the literature, and to practitioners of diplomacy and mediation, relative to a major continent in which the issues are relatively pervasive.”

David M. Malone, United Nations Under-Secretary-General, Rector of the United Nations University, Tokyo and former President of IDRC.

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Kenneth King



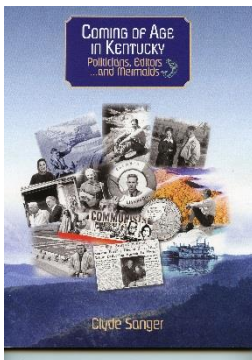
Education, Skills and International Cooperation: Comparative and Historical Perspectives : Comparative Education Research Centre (CERC) and Springer, ISBN 978-988-14241-7-4. November 2018; 381 pages; US\$38

“This book highlights some of Kenneth King’s diverse contributions to international and comparative education, African studies and development studies over more than four decades. From his pioneering work on the first educational commissions to Africa, through his research on skills training in the informal sector, and on to his critical analysis of education analysis in development agencies, this book makes influential materials available in one place.”

Kenneth King was the Associate Director of the Education Programme of the Social Sciences Division in the 1970s. Director of the Centre of African Studies and Professor of International and Comparative Education at the University of Edinburgh till September 2005. He is now Emeritus Professor in the School of Education and also of Social and Political Sciences.

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Clyde Sanger (Again!)



Coming of Age in Kentucky: Politicians, Editors....and Mermaids
ISBN: 978-1-77136-746-2 \$20.00.

“It is essentially drawn from my diary of September 1954 --May 1955 when I went on an exchange to the Louisville Courier-Journal, and drove round the state in the mid-term elections with two high-powered candidates for the Senate. I also sat through a McCarthyite trial of a journalist, Carl Braden, whose crime of "sedition" was to buy a house in a new white suburb and hand it over to a Negro family-- it was fiery-cross racism with accusations of Communism.... I spent three months driving through the Southern states with an English friend, interviewing editors on their reaction to school desegregation the year after the US Supreme Court ruled its banning. Mermaids? I found that American girls didn't just play doubles tennis with boys...as in England....”

Clyde in an email to IDRC Alumnus Neill McKee.

In this irrepressible account of the springtime of his life, Clyde Sanger enters the pasture of Kentucky like a pony set free. His education in romance and politics is by turns jolly, harrowing, enlightening and, surprising, and very much of its time. Less a case of a young Englishman losing his innocence than of a born writer and keen observer striking out on his rambunctious own.

ELIZABETH HAY, author of ALL THINGS CONSOLED', Ottawa.

This book is distinctively unusual. In a way, it’s the late harvest of an early vintage, and benefits from both. Based on a diary Clyde kept during a visit to Kentucky in 1954, it captures all the exuberance of a young reporter, missing out nothing. At the same time the book describes a ‘coming of age’ revelation, when he realized that the real world was not quite the jaunty, confident, tolerant milieu of his own upbringing.

CHRISTOPHER ROLLING, BBC Television Producer, London..

Clyde was the Associate Director of Communications at IDRC 1971-77. Two volumes of his poetry have made the Bulletin’s Alumni in Print: [Defrosting No.15, November 2007](#) and [Second Wind, No.41, December 2014](#).

IN MEMORIAM



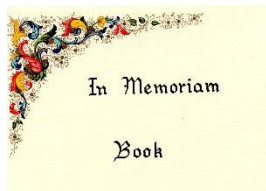
Steven Rosell
1950–2018

Stephen was an advisor to IDRC President Ivan Head in the 1980s.

Before coming to IDRC Stephen had been lead Machinery of Government at the Privy Council Office. He went on to found [Viewpoint Learning](#) and develop “innovative dialogue-based techniques and their application in both business and the public sector [to] enable decision-makers to understand different viewpoints in depth and use that understanding to find common ground and new ways forward.” Click to read the [Globe and Mail’s obituary](#).

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The IN MEMORIAM book on line



The [Alumni In Memoriam Book](#) is found on the [IDRC Alumni Website](#).

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Bulletin Archive on Line



[Past issues of the IDRC Alumni Bulletin](#), from the first edition in January 2003, are available on the [IDRC Alumni website](#). Bulletins for 1 to 26 are either English or French. From 27-39 they are bilingual and from 40 on, either English or French.



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