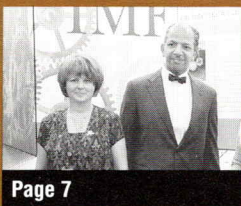




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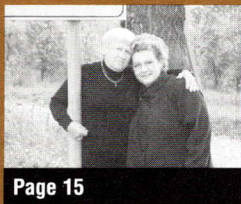
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The Board's eyes and ears

An interview with Hassan Ali and Robert Boykin

Robert Boykin and Hassan Ali have to know everybody who walks through the doors of the Executive Board Room when it is in session. It's their job—they are Board Attendants. Robert and Ali sat down with Staff News to talk about what goes on behind-the-scenes at the Board.

How long have you been working at the Board and what organizational unit are you part of?

Robert: I have been in the Fund since July 1971 and in the Board since June 1, 1975. I replaced Henry Waddell, who had been in the Fund since 1948 or 1949. Henry worked with Alberto DeVito, and then Eugene [Gene] Williams replaced Alberto in about 1968, and Gene and I worked together until he retired in 1998 and Ali came. Most of the time, there have been two people doing this job when the Board was in session.

Ali: I've been at the Fund for almost 17 years.... The last three years have been here at the Board. We are members of a four-person unit in SEC called Board Meetings Arrangements. Not everyone knows what goes on behind the scenes, or who is involved. Our unit takes care of some of the logistics of Executive Board meetings, including the attendant's list, the speaker's list, and the chairman's briefing, and we also check those who are and are not allowed to attend Board meetings.

What are some of the skills you need to do this job?

Both: Having a good memory for names and faces helps. We need to know everyone from the Managing Director, the Deputy Managing Directors and their staff, the 24 Executive Directors and their Alternates, Advisors and Assistants to all the Department Heads, and



(l-r) Robert Boykin and Hassan Ali in their home away from home.

many of their staff—a total of 180 people just under the Executive Directors alone. Our being familiar with all the names and faces keeps the Secretary in the Board from having to break his concentration on the item at hand. We have to be standing by, ready at all times, while the Board is in session—we really can't slack off at all. We have also come to realize in the time both of us have been doing this job that you have to put the Board first. We have both been fortunate because we haven't had a family emergency since we've worked here. We have a really good support system.

Could you describe a typical day?

Both: At the start of our day, we make sure the Board and Committee Rooms, and all our other conference rooms are in order; then, the computerized amplification system needs to be up and running without any glitches. Once the Board begins, we have to inform the Secretary in the Board who each person sitting at the table is. As the meeting starts and people move to and from the table, we keep the Secretary informed of any changes, so that both the Secretary and the Chairman know at all times who's at the table and whom they will be calling on by name. We use a seating chart, and one of us highlights the name of the person at the table while the other one takes attendance for the minutes. Once the meeting starts, if it is a two- or three-item day, different people will come in for each item. For each item, there is a speaker's list

that can, and often does, change up to the time the meeting starts. For each country item, for example, the Chair—usually the Managing Director or one of the Deputy Managing Directors—calls on the Executive Director for that country. Then someone from the staff speaks, and then the speaker's list starts; so it is important that the person called on to speak is the person at the table.

We also have coffee services at 10:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. and make sure that it is ordered and that the process goes smoothly. We are the ears and eyes of that room, and there is a great deal of activity going on throughout the day. People come down with documents or messages for Directors, and people send things out. We have to be in on those transactions. A lot of messages go back and forth between people through us. And people sometimes ask us to distribute something in the Board, which we have to clear beforehand with the Secretary. We often communicate with the Secretary through our intercom system. It is hooked up to the computer, and from it we can see who has activated which microphone and who is paging us from the Board room. We also have a receptionist who sends e-mails announcing changes of item and brings e-mails in to the Secretary and Executive Directors. When the computer is down, our intercom system doesn't work either.

Robert: If the computer breaks down, our job becomes much more difficult—one of us has to stand in the Board Room and look for people motioning to us to send a message or for others pressing the buzzer, because they don't necessarily know that it isn't working. The computer has broken down a few times, but fortunately, BTS and audiovisual have come to the rescue.

Is there a particularly busy time of year for you?

Ali: The schedule usually starts to intensify about a month before major holidays or events: the August recess, the winter holiday, and the spring and Annual meetings. About two weeks before these times, the schedule is full—every day there are two, three, or more items. And if there is a crisis in the world during these two weeks, forget it. Many times we are here beyond 7:00 p.m., sometimes later than 9:00 p.m., and back in early the next day, so our work can be trying on our health.

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Have you gotten any strange requests from people in the Board?

Ali: Even if we did, we couldn't tell you about it because we respect the Board members' privacy. We see much of what goes in and out of the Board room. It is important that Executive Directors trust us, so even if there were an interesting story, we wouldn't share it because we wouldn't want to violate their trust.

How have things changed in the Board over the years?

Robert: I have really noticed a big change in the length and number of meetings in the past two years. Directors have tried to shorten meetings, but the Fund is just dealing with more issues now than in the past. The Public Information Notices, HIPC discussions, two summings up, and crises that arise take up more time, and we are here until the Board finishes, no matter what. Years ago, we had a backup in another office who was familiar with the operations of the Board and the members of the Board in case one of us had an emergency or went on vacation, but we don't have that anymore. We now get a temporary in if one of us is out, but it slows down the person here to train someone, and to watch what the person is doing, so it really isn't worth it to us to do that. Consequently, we go on vacation when the Board is not in session.

Ali: Things have changed a lot since I first started here. Meetings were usually held on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. But the world continues to change...Crises occur and other events happen that have a big impact on the work of the Fund. The extra load means one of two things—adding extra items to the existing schedule, which sometimes stretches our days into nights—or adding them on Tuesday and/or Thursday.

There isn't any control over our schedules, and we never really know how long a meeting will run—we'll look at the speaker's list and try to gauge how long we think a meeting might last, but it's sometimes impossible to predict. There's no problem in staying late—that is part of our job. But that is also why it is good for us to have a little bit of down time. Our endurance gets tested many times over. Another change that took



Robert and Ali unveil the portrait of former Managing Director Michel Camdessus in the Board Room on December 6.

place was incorporating a 10 minute break between each item. At that time, our receptionist sends an e-mail to notify everyone of the end of one item and the start of another, thus eliminating the crowd that used to wait for the next item to begin, usually in the ante-room just outside the Board Room.

What else are you responsible for?

Ali: We also take care of the Board Committee Room, where we have Committee Meetings and Informal Meetings, as well as many seminars. For these, we help by making sure the room is set up and determining whether the group will need coffee service or any audiovisual equipment. We put them in touch with the right people, such as Marriott and the Audio Visual Unit. Additionally, the Managing Director and the Deputy Managing Directors all have their conference rooms, where they have meetings during the day. We help by making sure the rooms are set up at all times—for both scheduled and unscheduled meetings. The only time it can get pressing is if we get called on while a Board meeting is in progress. If that happens one of us must tend to the needs in either of these conference rooms. This way, one of us will always be here to answer to the Board. We also work the Executive Board retreats, which are held locally, and occasional Executive Board dinners. The job has other benefits—no, not free dinners—meeting people like President Chirac of France, Alan Greenspan, Chairman Arafat, and Bono, lead singer from the rock band U2, to name a few. ♦

I've got the music in me

The Fund is loaded with talented people, among them, the musically inclined. Many staff either play an instrument or sing in public performances. Staff News spoke to a few of the Fund's amateur musicians, and some of their stories are below.

Scott Brown

I came to Washington in 1974 with the intention of becoming a professional rock musician. I had sung and played various instruments (piano, French horn, trumpet, guitar) most of my life and performed in church and school choirs, school and community orchestras, pit orchestras for plays, and garage bands. While I had never before thought of this as more than a hobby, after my first year of law school, I decided to take some time out to consider alternatives.

Two things intervened. I didn't find the rock band lifestyle particularly enjoyable, and I became increasingly interested in what was going on in my day job, at the Federal Reserve Board. With the Fed's help and encouragement, I finished my graduate studies in economics and have worked in international finance ever since. I have gotten to do many exciting things over the years and have never looked back.

Eventually I resumed singing in church choirs, serving as a cantor at some evening services, and acting as piano accompanist at events in the extended family when folks were really desperate. For the last several years, I have been part of what we call the Contemporary Choir (really a guitar-based folk group) at St. Ann's Church in Arlington. The leader of this group is Martin Fetherston, another Fund staffer. On special occasions (particularly at Christmas and Easter), they suffer through my playing trumpet as well, but for our normal repertory softer instruments (flute, Irish whistle) fit in better. I have also taken a guitar to some mission sites, when I knew I was going to be spending a lot of time there.

Music was a family affair when I was growing up, and is now as well. My wife and sons play piano and



(l-r) Fernando Delgado, Martin Fetherston, Mary Jo Marquez, Josh Greene, and Scott Brown.

sing, and my older son is a good guitarist and budding string and electric bassist.

My advice to people who love music is not to look at it as an either-or proposition. Do it as much as you like, and don't get discouraged if you have to go into hibernation—even for a long time. Life is full of trade-offs.

Luis Catão

I have played classical guitar since I was 11. My mother, who plays classical piano, introduced me to classical music. I began formally learning harmony and musical theory soon after at a music school. I was initially attracted to the guitar by the "classic" rock and roll groups of the 1970s (Led Zeppelin, Pink Floyd, and the like) but gradually became more attracted to the classical repertoire.

I sometimes play at small social gatherings. Acoustic guitar is an introverted instrument, which in my view is not really entirely at ease with large groups. Maybe that was one of most attractive things about it. Another is that, unlike the piano or the violin, the guitar has a smaller and much less "distinguished" classical repertoire. This, coupled with the fact that the guitar does not sound as loud as these other instruments, makes it a more challenging task to captivate an audience. When you do face a receptive audience, the chemistry can be outstanding because of the guitar's intimate character.

The great art historian Ernst Gombrich defined art as something done extraordinarily well. I think we all, to different degrees, seek to do some out-of-the-ordinary things and be appreciated for those. And

with some luck, one may even get some positive spillovers—benefits from the creative energy emanating from playing an instrument even as an amateur—and become a more creative professional as a result. I guess this includes economists.

Making a full-time career in classical music requires extreme dedication and, I would add, quite a bit of detachment from society. I remember a comment by the famed Italian violinist Salvatore Accardo: once you leave the instrument aside for one day, the instrument will leave you for a month; once you leave the instrument aside for a month, it will leave you for a year. This is one factor I took into account. The other is that, when I entered college, I became quite engaged politically, and isolating myself to practice five or six hours—as I used to—gradually lost some of its appeal. With hindsight, I am glad I opted to be an economist, even though it may lack the glamour of being a John Williams or an Eduardo Fernandez. I only regret not having more time to be a better amateur. But maybe this will change one day....

Fernando Delgado

I have loved music since I was a baby, thanks to my grandma's lullabies and the arias that my grandpa whistled and sang. My father got me my first guitar and taught me my first chords when I was 12, and I quickly developed a deep love for the instrument. I took lessons, and when I was 14 I entered the Madrid Conservatory, where I studied guitar and chorus singing. As a teenager, I spent most of my spare time at home playing the guitar. I formed my first band with school friends, and over my teen years I played in several bands. My style evolved from heavy rock preferences—Uriah Heep, Blue Oyster Cult—to more elaborate music, first symphonic rock (Emerson, Lake, and Palmer; Pink Floyd), and then Celtic music (Alain Stivel, Gwendal). We started to play semiprofessionally when I was 17, performing at small town festivals and discos.

I quickly outgrew that first guitar, "Eva," and convinced my parents to buy me a second Spanish guitar. "Maria" was a student guitar, but of much better workmanship than "Eva," and still has a beautiful sound. When we formed the first band, I wanted an electric guitar, and I finally got a beautiful Japanese clone (Aria) of the classic Gibson Lespaul. Even after I got my sec-

ond electric guitar—a Fender Stratocaster—I favored my Aria, named "Pilar" after my then girlfriend and now wife, for some songs. I also bought a marvelous acoustic guitar, a Japanese Ibanez named "Julia" after a dear friend. "Julia" has been my most trusted companion since I outgrew rock and electric music and had no time to continue on the classical path. My final acquisition in the guitar world was a handmade classical guitar.

I played frequently until I started my studies in economics at the Madrid Complutense University and, simultaneously, worked for a bank. My guitars gathered dust until shortly after I joined the Fund in 1991. I have my wife and daughter to thank for their reemergence. We were new to the United States and were quite lost when we arrived. We found a Spanish Catholic church, "Nuestra Señora Reina de las Americas" (Our Lady Queen of the Americas), where my family talked me into coordinating a choir for a Sunday mass. I am now the "artistic director" for the 11:00 a.m. mass, which takes about five or six hours a week to prepare for, rehearse, and perform. I also play at social meetings and dinners with friends, and I am in a chorus with other Spaniards that sings Spanish popular and folk songs.

Martin Fetherston

I started teaching myself the guitar as a teenager in England in the 1960s. Other than an hour a week of music class for a year at school, I had no formal musical training. I played acoustic and electric guitar (pop, rock, and folk) for my own amusement for 20-odd years until joining the St. Ann Arlington choir in 1991 (my wife Grainne was already a member and encouraged me to join), and I became leader of the choir in January 1999. The choir has about 20 members with two acoustic guitars (myself and Scott Brown) and light percussion. We sing hymns and service music mainly in folk style and written by various composers of church music in the last 20–30 years.

The choir sings at the 10:30 a.m. mass on Sundays and practices on Tuesday evenings. In addition, I rehearse at home on Sunday mornings. My wife and I also sang in Ireland at her brother's wedding and at her mother's funeral. For recreation, I play more secular guitar (or occasionally mandolin) music at home. Our boys enjoy music too: our 15-year-old son plays drums and his 13-year-old brother is learning electric guitar.

For the most part, I can pursue my music as much as I would like, although up until recently I was traveling on two to three missions a year and so I missed quite a few Sundays. I've been lucky that Scott Brown has been able to step in and take over. Just once I took a guitar along on a mission—to Mongolia in the early 1990s. I had decided to buy a new guitar and to donate the old one locally. One evening we had a distinctly unconventional mission meeting devoted to singing old Beatles songs.

I find playing music an enjoyable and effective way to relax, and being in a choir for several years has made me a much better guitarist and singer. It is also fulfilling when the choir's music enhances the congregation's appreciation of and participation in the liturgy and when we get positive feedback from them.

Joshua Greene

I have been playing piano since I was six—on my own at first, and then with private teachers—and have studied off and on since. Early in my Fund career, I practiced regularly, even on mission, where I would rise early to play on hotel pianos. Sadly, my playing has diminished over time. I played several hours a day in college and graduate school and a fair amount afterward. I also played a good bit while serving as the Fund's resident representative in Romania, where I accompanied one of the national opera company's soloists in a few public performances. While I have had less time for playing since my return to Fund headquarters in 1995, I donate my skills for charity and still do some accompanying—at school and scouting programs, and sometimes during missions when an appropriate situation arises.

I play the piano for fun, for emotional release, and because I feel there is a value in making music, even if the technical quality is not at a professional level. I especially like performing chamber music with others and would like to do it more. It would be good if the Fund and/or the Bank developed a notice board where amateur musicians could locate each other. (Any violinists seeking an accompanist for Kreisler or some of the easier violin and piano sonatas, please call!)

Playing an instrument also provides a way to meet some wonderful people outside economics and policy-making. Some of my closest friends from Romania are

professional or semiprofessional musicians with whom I was honored to play.

The increasing specialization of modern society has downgraded the value of amateur performance—it is just too easy to turn on the radio and hear note-perfect playing. Singing or playing an instrument gives intrinsic satisfaction and creates appreciation for professional music making, thereby helping maintain the small and, alas, shrinking audience for classical music. If the local culture gave more encouragement to amateur music-making, perhaps children would feel there is a long-term benefit from pursuing musical studies. Maybe we need a Fund-Bank society of amateur musicians, similar to the famous 'doctors' orchestras' of old.

Mary Jo Marquez

My musical "career" started when I was six years old. I took piano lessons, but not for long because I was more interested in playing with my teacher's granddaughter than playing scales. When I was eight, I took piano for another couple of years, but that teacher eloped and was never heard from again. That ended the piano lessons. Guitar playing was something else entirely; I started one summer when I got an inexpensive guitar and subjected my family to "My Darling Clementine" and "Down in the Valley" over and over. I eventually graduated to songs like "Moon River," "Autumn Leaves," anything by John Denver, and then the classic guitar player's anthems "Stairway to Heaven" and "Hotel California." I don't play now as much as I used to.

Singing was a by-product of the guitar playing. I joined my church folk group one summer and little did I know that I would enjoy singing and playing the guitar so much that I would later lead the group for seven years. Now I sing with the 8:30 a.m. Sunday choir at St. Anthony's Church in Falls Church. I've sung with friends for the television mass for shut-ins, at church weddings, and I have been known to sing in the office. Singing is fun; it helped me get over a fear of public speaking, and it instills a strong sense of discipline. I get a lot of enjoyment and satisfaction singing with a church choir. I've learned how to sight-read music, and I enjoy seeing the smiling faces of people in the congregation when they sing along with us. It's also a way of cutting loose, since I like to sing different kinds of songs, not just church music. ♦

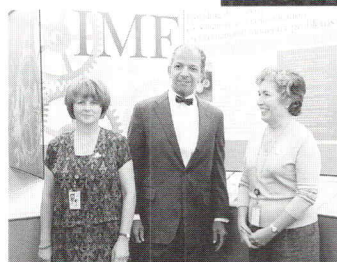
Dual events mark IMF Center opening

On November 17, staff were invited to visit the new IMF Center before its official public opening. About 700 curious and enthusiastic staff came to the inauguration. They kept the Center abuzz all day long as they toured the exhibits, bought gift items from the bookstore, and viewed the *Millennium* series videos in the mini-theatre.

Staff lingered over the *Ancient Coins of the Mediterranean* exhibit and the *Silk Route Empires* exhibit depicting the ancient trade routes. Others enjoyed the educational and informational facilities for students—many have already made contacts with schoolteachers and university professors to schedule tours and briefings. As a memento of their visit, staff were given souvenirs; the mini-highlighters were the biggest hit.

Gala Public Open House

The Center also held a grand inauguration reception on November 30; the event, by invitation only, was attended by over 400 people including representatives from the D.C. Mayor's office, the Smithsonian and other museum professionals, ambassadors and other embassy staff, media, academia, and labor unions. The gallery was aglow; the food was terrific; a three-piece jazz ensemble (The Jazz Connection) added to the warm ambience; and the



Managing Director Horst Köhler meets Mayor Anthony Williams.

event provided the first occasion for the Managing Director and Mayor Anthony Williams to meet. According to Linda Kamel, the Center's

Director, it gave them "a good opportunity to cement the partnership that the IMF has with the D.C. government and the community at large."

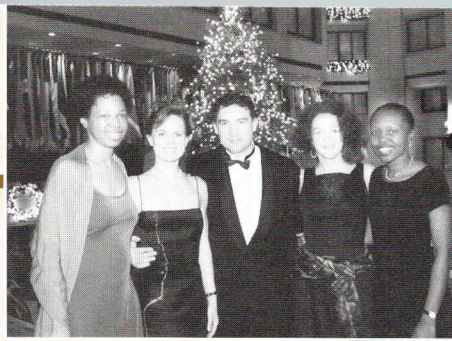
The Managing Director spoke first, explaining that the Center "was designed with the needs of the public uppermost in mind as we go about the business of making the IMF more open, more transparent, and more responsive." Mayor Williams explained the Center's value to the community:

"When the IMF Visitor's Center first opened in 1986, it served as a cultural catalyst for our great city....Today, as we rededicate the Center, resplendent with all the new publications, presentations, and activities, our residents and visitors will have new opportunities to learn about the IMF's influence on our world."

As is now the norm for IMF-sponsored events, about 100 protestors showed up to express their antidebt, antiglobalization views.

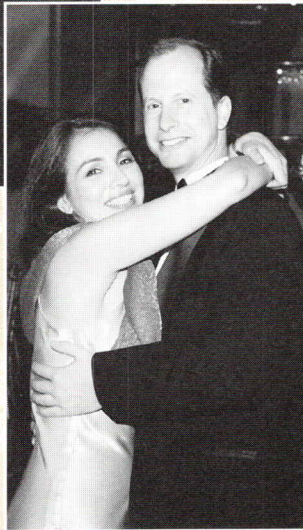
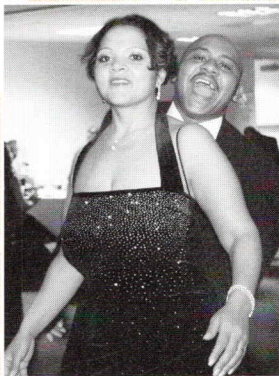
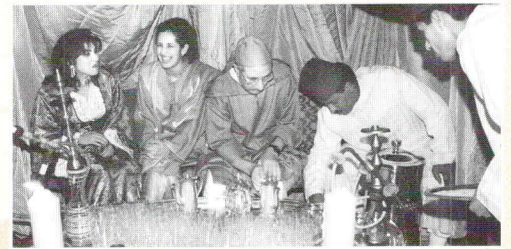
They did so in a relatively calm fashion on the sidewalk in front of the Center, under the watchful eye of the D.C. police, and caused no disruption to the proceedings. ♦

The IMF Center is open Monday–Friday from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Look for the next exhibit, *The Wild Wired World of E-Commerce*, early next year. For more information, please contact Lucia Casaravilla at x38695.



Happy Holidays





Tom Leddy: A tribute

Below are remarks made by Jack Boorman (PDR), at Tom Leddy's funeral on November 16.

Tom Leddy and I shared the running of the Policy Development and Review Department. Our titles suggested that I ran the place and Tom was my deputy. But everyone there knows it was different. For the past 12 years, Tom and I had the closest thing to a working partnership—but he was the one who made sure we didn't make any mistakes. We were located 15 feet across from each other, but our working relationship and friendship saw no distance. I consider it one of the real joys and honors of my life to have known Tom as well as I did.

Many Fund staff could speak more eloquently about Tom than I will be able to—and many already have. As I called to tell people of Tom's death, the spontaneous reactions to him were overwhelming. Everyone shared deep feelings of loss—some with ease like Michel Camdessus, our former Managing Director, who was deeply moved but, as always, had exactly the words to express his feelings of loss and to convey his enormous respect for Tom. Others were equally eloquent; some were more searching, trying to find the words to say what they felt. Whatever the thoughts, there was a consistency to the words used: Tom was a gentleman of the first order, an extraordinary person, a mentor, a colleague who was also a real friend, a thoroughly professional person, a thoroughly decent person, someone you could always trust, someone who was almost always right—but gently so and never with a sense that you might be wrong.

Tom was not an expansive person. As the Managing Director said, Tom had a higher ratio of content to words than anyone else. Because he was not expansive, I doubt he spoke much at home about his life at work. No one enjoyed more respect from the people with whom he worked than Tom. One colleague had the following reaction to Tom's death, which I can relate to personally: "Whenever someone disagrees with me," this person said, "I wonder why they don't understand the issue; whenever Tom disagreed with me, I wondered what I didn't understand."



And that was special about Tom: he was almost always right, but never made you feel you were wrong. The two of you just had a different way of looking at an issue—until you

thought about it and realized his way was the right way. This quality made Tom an extraordinary mentor to people at all levels. Senior staff and management could unquestionably rely on his judgment. To junior staff, he was the quintessential mentor and guide—but with no feeling on the part of those involved that they were being mentored or guided. Tom's was the lightest touch, the friendly touch, and the welcome touch.

A recent e-mail goes to the heart of it all:

"I was terribly saddened to hear that Tom had died. My heart goes out to his family and to you, his good friend. He meant a lot to me and to many others at the Fund in so many ways: professionally, in teaching me both to be well seasoned but open minded, straightforward but fair, and to keep things in perspective and have a sense of humor; and personally, in inspiring me to try to be a better person."

And another: "Tom dealt fairly with everyone and treated people with respect. Tom was an inspiration and teacher, and if I am not better at this work or as a person, it surely reflects only my own shortcomings. We all need to continue to try and live up to his example."

If anyone asks what was Tom's contribution and what will be his legacy, it is in those statements. He touched deeply all of us with whom he worked. And the best of him is reflected in the work and attitudes of those he left behind. For a long time, the Fund will be a much better place because of the mark Tom left and because others want to emulate him and will continue doing so long into the future.

Notwithstanding his enormous dedication to his work, his success, and a work style that took too much of his life, Tom came to see himself in the last few years as able to walk away from all that, and devote himself to other activities on his list of important things to do.

There is a lesson there for all of us. ♦



Boo



Love that makeup.

Fund staff and retirees gathered at AYUDA in Mt. Pleasant on Saturday, October 28, for INVOLVE's annual Halloween party for the children of AYUDA. Many of the INVOLVE volunteers were unrecognizable to fellow staff members as they were dressed in costumes ranging from Harry Potter's witch to 1980s rock stars. Dorothy, minus Toto, stopped by on her way to Oz to help Sporty Spice paint faces, while a huge Viking handed out cookies and cupcakes to the wide-eyed kids. The pumpkin painting table—the highlight of the party—was brimming with pumpkins donated by IMF staff. Thanks to the guidance of Hilda and Graham Newman and Cecilia Weikert the little artists kept most of the paint on the pumpkins—and themselves. Under the watchful eyes of Molly Singh and others, the children worked at the crafts table creating

cards and gifts for their parents. Wild rounds of musical chairs were led by Juanita Roushdy and Greg Turner in a failed attempt to tire out the young party animals. INVOLVERS not able to make it to the party provided pumpkins, food, and drinks. Special thanks to all the INVOLVE volunteers and their family members who helped make the party a success, including Carolena Weikert, Craig Clickenger and his father, Eva Gutierrez, Julie Burton, Linda Thomas and her daughter Laura, Natalia Ruiz-Galindo, Roxana Nikdjou, and Connie Strayer. ♦

Connie Strayer



Young artists create pumpkin masterpieces.



Partygoers enjoy a game of musical chairs.

Each one can teach one

Fund staff have often shown that they have generous hearts. This was once again evident in their response to a recent 10-day book drive mounted by the Caribbean Association of the World Bank/IMF. The Association requested books to aid literacy in the Caribbean—in this case, for schools in Jamaica. Fund staff donated more than 200 books: many of the books featured young, black characters; others had interesting cultural themes reflecting the broad international base of the Fund; and some were good old classics. The books have since been presented to Eureka Alliance, Inc., a District of Columbia nonprofit organization headed by a former World Bank staff member, which will ship the books before the end of the year—in time for Christmas. We in the Caribbean Association would like to thank those who participated and to encourage others to join future worthwhile causes.

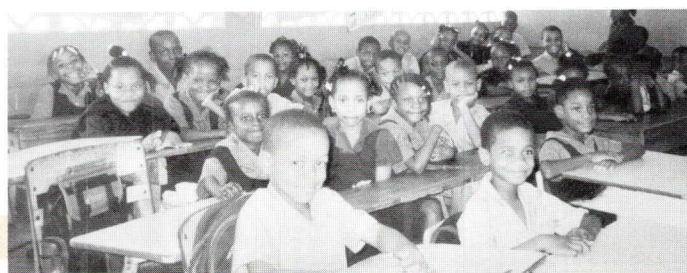
The Alliance is spearheading a "Let's Read" program in Jamaica in response to the shortage of reading and textbooks and the resulting low reading scores on the island. The program's aim is to encourage children

to "want to read," and not to "force them to read," and for that reason, the books requested and donated were intended to be fun to read. The program currently targets three primary schools and the associated preschools in the parish of St. Thomas, and covers more than 4,000 students.

The Alliance has received support from the National Geographic Society Library, the Stone Ridge School of the Sacred Heart in Bethesda, the British and Commonwealth Society of North America, The Martin Luther King Memorial Library, Air Jamaica, and several individuals and corporations. Already this year, the Alliance has supplied more than 1,000 books, two computers, and learning aids (such as flash cards, and educational games). This is not enough to meet the current needs. While the book drive is over, donations are welcome at any time. (They can be sent to me in room 5-100.) ♦

Dennis Jones

President, Caribbean Association of the World Bank/IMF



Children at a primary school in St. Thomas.

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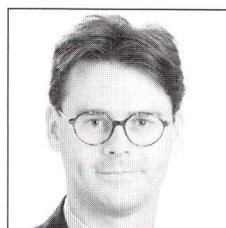
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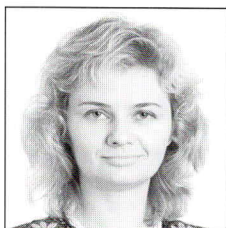
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Elena Budreckaitė

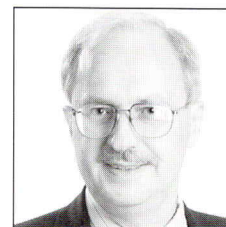
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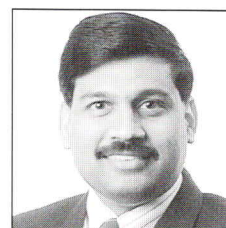
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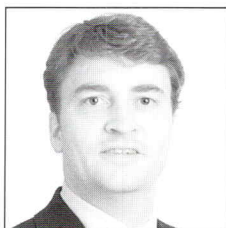
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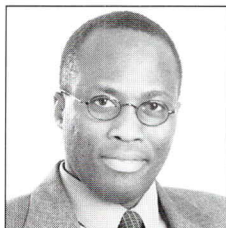
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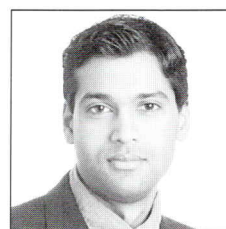
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Spanish, is an Economist, AFR. She holds a Ph.D. from Universidad Carlos III de Madrid. She is interested in micro-econometrics and household economics.



Happy occasions

Bas Bakker (PDR) is happy to announce his marriage to Christine Ensley on July 1.

Greta D. Ober-Beauchesne (TGS) and Stephan Beauchesne are proud to announce the birth of their son, Nathaniel, on August 11.

Congratulations to **James Hudson** (OBP) and Greig Stewart who celebrated their civil union in Vermont on December 1.

Separations

Michael John Buchanan	Roslyn A. Lennon
Maria V. Carkovic	Elizabeth A. Milne
Marco Committeri	Herbert V. Morais
Guler Fitzgerald	Hernan P. Puentes
Akhil Handa	Dorothy W. Quelch
H.S. Kedlaya	Michael Sarel

Transfers

Khanjar Wabel Abdallah to MED from HRD
Birgir Arnason to TRE from APD
Lynn Aylward to PDR from EXR
Elisabeth A. Baker to SSG from EU2
Abdelrahmi Bessaha to MED from AFR
Zeljko Bogetic to EU2 from WHD
Patricia D. Brenner to MAE from WHD
Saade Chami to MED from PDR
Joseph D. Crowley to MAE from AFR
Mark De Broeck to EU1 from RES
Jules Erik J. De Vrijer to EU2 from AFR
Enrica Detragiache to EU1 from RES
Katrin C. Elborgh-Woytek to EU2 from AFR
Amina H. Elmi to STA from FAD
Toshihide Endo to FAD from APD
Martin J. Fetherston to PDR from EU1
Cynthia O. Galang to MAE from RES
John H. Green to AFR from RES

Ioannis Halikias to PDR from EU1
Ketil Hviding to PDR from EU1
Byung Kyoon Jang to APD from AFR
Sepideh K. Khazai to OBP from EU2
Alexei P. Kireyev to GEN from MED
Natalia A. Koliadina to PDR from EU1
Emmanuel O. Kumah to STA from MED
Michael Leidy to INV from WHD
Ewe-Ghee Lim to STA from MED
Melissa Jean Little to MED from AFR
Philippe Marciniak to APD from EU1
Mauro Mecagni to MAE from PDR
Joannes Mongardini to EU2 from PDR
Christopher J.R. Morris to RES from OAP
James H.J. Morsink to RES from APD
Geoffrey B. Oestreicher to EU1 from APD
Sam Ouliaris to RES from TGS
Michael G. Papaioannou to WHD from TRE
Marco A. Pinon-Farah to RES from AFR
Thomas J. Richardson to EU2 from FAD
Izabela Rutkowska to TRE from EU2
Ranil Manohara Salgado to APD from RES
Bassirou A. Sarr to AFR from SEC
Jodi G. Scarlata to MAE from INS
Elizabeth Sumar to STA from APD
Marco E. Terrones Silva to RES from WHD
Kamau Thugge to AFR from PDR
Lidia V. Tokuda to STA from MAE
G. Ulmschneider Castueil to OBP from STA
Athanasios Vamvakidis to EU1 from APD
Paul R. Wade to INS from APD

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Kathryn Behbahani
 Oonagh M. Greaves

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Leigh Alexander
 Samuel P. O. Itam
 Dennis P. Kelly
 Yasoma Liyanarachchi
 Donald J. Mathieson
 Jurgen T. Reitmaier
 Douglas J. Stevenson
 Basil B. Zavoico

imfstaff20years

Lorna M. Campbell
 Lily Cheng
 Michael T. Hadjimichael
 Valda E. Harvey
 Patrizia Salama

A trip back in time

Hilda Newman (EUI) and her husband Graham took Hilda's mother on a memorable trip in October—to discover her roots in Lithuania. Below, Hilda (with help from Graham) recounts their journey.

This year we helped my mother fulfill her lifelong dream—to find out about her forebears in Lithuania. It was an emotional trip, because mom had promised her mother that she would take her back to the land of their birth, but never had the opportunity to do so. Graham and I were not that confident—after all, her parents had left Lithuania in 1926, when my mother was only three, to emigrate to Argentina in search of a better life. But it was worth a try because it was so important to her.

After finishing my assignment at the Annual Meetings, I met mom and Graham in Warsaw to start our search of mom's birthplace. Too young to remember many details of the family's move, mom recalled only that her mother, Tekla, took huge trunks brimming with clothes, goose-down comforters and pillows, as well as wheels of cheeses and assorted delicacies from her native land. Tekla would eventually share these goodies with all the Lithuanian friends that congregated in her kitchen in their new home. Mom grew up in La Plata, about 50 kilometers from Buenos Aires and was surrounded by a large Lithuanian community. She remembers little about those early years of her life, despite sessions we had to uncover details. In those days, family affairs were not discussed with children and children did not ask too many questions or they were quickly put in their place.

As Vilnius is now the capital of Lithuania, mom has always assumed that was where her parents came from and where she was born, so we initially decided to start there. But, a couple of months before we were to start our trip, my sister found a tattered piece of paper that turned out to be the health certificate my grandfather needed to emigrate to Argentina. That was issued in Kaunas, Lithuania's second largest city,



Hilda and her mom find their roots in Anyksciai.

so we switched gears and decided to concentrate our search there.

I had been in contact with my

cousins in Argentina, and just before we left, they sent me some information about my uncle (mom's brother). It didn't make too much sense then, so we largely ignored it, although, fortunately, I took the e-mail with me.

With the help of Mark Horton and his staff in the Vilnius res rep office, we stayed at a wonderful hotel in the old town of Vilnius, which we used as our base. Our plan was to go to Kaunas where we hoped to find evidence of mom's ancestry. While chatting with our guide, Marija Beinortiene, I pulled out the e-mail from my cousins in Argentina. Although Marija could not read Spanish, a couple of place names jumped out at her, in particular Anyksciai, a mid-sized provincial town about 120 kilometers north of Vilnius. When I showed Marija a copy of my grandfather's medical certificate issued in Kaunas, Marija—who obviously knew much more about Lithuanian history than any of us—pointed out that in 1926 Vilnius was part of Poland and that the capital was Kaunas, which was why the certificate was issued there. She argued that the more logical place to start looking was Anyksciai. We went to Kaunas anyway, where we had a great day sightseeing, and decided to take Marija with us to Anyksciai the next day.

Anyksciai

We started our journey to Anyksciai with a feeling of excitement and expectation. On the way, we agreed the most logical place to start was the town's only church. When we arrived, the church was locked, but Marija went to the rectory to find the priest. He came, greeted us warmly, and opened the church office. He opened a Soviet-era filing cabinet and started to pull out records that were entered in school notebooks.

The time of reckoning was at hand. First, we looked at birth records—mom’s family name was Pavilonis, so Marija looked for an entry under that name, but didn’t find anything. Mom’s dismay was evident until Marija pointed out that, unlike in the West, family names, while having the same root, have endings that indicate both gender and age. Lo and behold, she found a Pavilonite—my mother! We went through the marriage records and found the marriage details of her parents, all written in Russian. Marija carefully read through all the names of our family, some of which my mother and I were hearing for the first time.

We shed tears and shared hugs of joy. We then found out the significance of the second place name my cousins had given us. While my grandmother was living in Anyksciai, my grandfather lived in a small village close by, Slavenai, where the records showed that he owned some land.

After leaving the church, we went to the “wedding palace,” where local records are kept, to find a record of mom’s birth, and we got a copy of her birth certificate—the original had long been lost. We took a quick drive to Slavenai to have a look, but as it was getting late, we agreed to do a “people search” the next day.

Slavenai

On our second visit to Slavenai, we were a family with a purpose. Marija accompanied us, as by now she knew the history of the family almost as well as we did. The plan was to find an older section of the village and talk to some of the residents. We stopped our van by the side of the road and picked a spot at random. Our first attempt was an abandoned house, but we could see tire tracks leading to another house in the distance. Much to my surprise, when we reached the door Marija opened it without so much as a knock, revealing the anteroom and the inside door of the house. A charming elderly lady opened the door,



Hilda's mom and the priest in the church where she was baptized.

and we started an animated conversation about the village residents. At 80 years old, she was the second oldest person in the village. She thought that there was no one with the name Pavilonis or Augustinas (my grandmother’s family name) living there now, but suggested we ask someone even older—her brother. We found him to be just as friendly as his sister, and he took us to see the one person he knew with the family name Pavilonis—the wife of a local farmer.

We were excited when we arrived at the farm to find that the woman’s grandmother’s name was Roxe (the name of my grandfather’s sister), but the grandfather’s name did not match up. We were on the wrong track and had run out of time. We had only enough time to check the old cemetery before dark. The cemetery was huge and it was late; still, we searched until nightfall but found many of the old gravestones to be worn away or damaged. Perhaps we were 20 years too late.

Regretfully, we took our leave as my mother murmured that she had been so sure that she was going to find someone from her family. We gently pointed out to her that after all this time, and both Nazi and Soviet invasions in the interim, the chances were not high. But at least we were able to get confirmation about her family and her birth.

Mom wistfully said that if we had had more time, we might have been more successful. I told her that perhaps that was something her grandchildren could take up in the future. Despite that final disappointment, mom and I now know our roots, and our search was well documented by Graham, who in retirement has turned into an excellent filmmaker, giving us a complete video record to pass on to the next generation of Pavilonis and Augustinas descendents. To complete the circle, we will shortly go to Argentina to share the information with my cousins, who have waited years for information about their father’s ancestry. ♦