

In this issue ...

- Coady's Global Connections Centre
- Certificate for Women:
Community Development Leadership
- Conflict Transformation & Peacebuilding
- StFX's HIV/AIDS Initiative: *Xtending Hope*
- March for Land Rights in India
- Coady's Youth Programs
- Lifelong E-mail Forwarding
- *AlumniInsight*
- Staff Update
- We Hear From



Helping
people
 Build
their
own
 Future



COADY
 INTERNATIONAL
 INSTITUTE
 St. Francis Xavier University



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Civil Society Participation
Key to Peace, Prosperity
and a Sustainable Future

Mary Coyle
 Director, Coady International Institute
 University Vice President, St. Francis Xavier University

"The world calls loudly for a real democratic formula to bring life to all its people. It is not going to be done by guns, making armies or bombs, but by a program in which the people themselves will participate. This is democracy not only in the political sense but it is participation by the people in economic, social and educational forces which condition their lives."

Moses Coady
Masters of Their Own Destiny, 1938

Moses Coady wasn't in New York or Washington to witness the devastation of last September 11th. He wasn't in Johannesburg for the recent Summit on Sustainable Development. He missed the G8 meetings in Western Canada and the discussion on the New Partnership for African Development (NEPAD) in June. The conflicts raging in the Middle East, the Persian Gulf, Colombia and a number of countries in Africa were unknown to Moses Coady. He hasn't read the latest newspaper headlines about the UN weapons inspectors in Iraq or the call for war coming from the US. If he were among us today, I am sure that he would be proclaiming his "democratic formula" all the more loudly.

Although the term "civil society" was not part of Coady's vocabulary he certainly believed in the potential of citizens, their associations and organizations to create that world where everyone would enjoy "the good and abundant life."

Education is absolutely critical to equip people and their organizations to realize their potential. Education was the fuel for Coady's Antigonish Movement here in Canada. Today the Coady International Institute is renewing our commitment to education – education based on innovation and education leading to effective action.

Inside you will read about Thomas Turay's new Coady program on Community-Based Conflict Transformation and Peacebuilding. Olga Gladkikh, provides the highlights of

"Today the Coady International Institute is renewing our commitment to education - education based on innovation and education leading to effective action."

our Learning and Innovations Institute on Democracy and Active Citizen Engagement. This past November our special learning institute was focused on Enhancing Natural Resources and Livelihoods Globally Through Community-Based Resource Management. Over 100 practioners and academics from 22 countries participated in this successful initiative.

continued on page 6

AlumniInsight

Dear Editor,

Greetings from Botswana! First of all let me say how happy I am to write to AlumniInsight about my experiences at the Coady International Institute.



Douglas Thamage graduated from the Coady Institute in 2000 with a Diploma in Community-Based Development. He is currently working as Assistant Team Leader with Veld Products Research & Development in Botswana.

Douglas Thamage
2000 Diploma graduate

Sometime towards the end of 1999, I happened to read an advertisement about Coady's Diploma in Community-Based Development to be offered in July 2000 in a weekly bulletin of Botswana Council of Non-Governmental Organisation (BOCONGO). I said to myself "this looks like the course that falls right up my street."

I arrived at Coady in July leaving behind my wife with a three-month old baby (yes! three months I said) and a whole series of other responsibilities to take care of. I must admit, it was tough at times but we all survived the time apart.

The five months I spent at the Coady gave me an opportunity to reflect on the work I have been doing for the past eight years. I managed to analyze my organisation's outputs and see how they compare with what is happening in the social transformation arena. The interaction with other community development professionals from across the globe made me realize that the successes and the failures, which we go through as organizations, are in most cases similar.

Of course, the main challenge which we face as development professionals is implementing some of the lessons and strategies learned from the diploma course to the benefit of the communities we are

working with. Do we as development professionals have a recipe for development? These are some of the issues and concerns which I carried home after the program and which continue to be food for thought in my day-to-day activities.

Since my return to Botswana, my organization has been discussing a potential partnership with Coady to work together on Asset-Based Community Development concepts. This shows that institutions of learning like Coady also learn from the participants. Like any development "it takes two to tango."

Coady's program in community-based development offers development agents a place where they can share their diverse wealth of knowledge with support from a dedicated team.

Keep it up!
Douglas Thamage

Dear Editor,

After Coady, we all returned home with new ideas and thoughts, determined to apply to our work what we had learned.

At Coady I had an opportunity to interact with 47 other development workers from around the world. They were all community leaders possessing rich experiences in community development.

During my study, I used to compare myself to the rural women of my country who have realized their capacities as a result of our community-based development work. The sequence of participatory exercises taught at the Institute enabled me to assess, analyze and plan action on issues like building the capacities of rural women.

Coady enabled me to develop self-confidence and made me more self-reliant; it further built my capacity to deal with community people and other leaders. Now I have confidence to deal with community people and make decisions in my organization, especially after being promoted to Executive Director of the Women's Awareness Centre Nepal.



Soni Thapa
2000 Diploma graduate

Soni Thapa graduated from the Coady Institute in 2000 with a Diploma in Community-Based Development. She is the Executive Director of the Women Awareness Centre Nepal (WACN).

I feel I've become a good facilitator who involves disadvantaged people and tries to bring out their potential.

My interest in community-based development has been further enhanced after completing Coady's diploma. It has clarified concepts and theories of participatory development and, as a result, helped me to realize that development workers are responsible for being the change agents in their communities - for helping to bring about positive and sustainable change. I am applying Coady's experiences and knowledge of community development by preparing a recipe suitable to my country's situation.

Regards,
Soni Thapa Oli

Dear Editor,

I was sent to the Coady International Institute in 1963 for the Social Leadership Course. After returning, I was a pioneer staff of the South East Asia Rural Social Leadership Institute (SEARSOLIN), which was established in 1963 with the help of Mr. Frank Glasgow, a Coady staff member assigned to SEARSOLIN for a year.

Studying at Coady was my first experience abroad. I was young, 20 years old, when Fr. Masterson sent me for training which started on September 1963, through the cold snowy winter until spring of 1964. Our eight-month course was long. Eight of us were asked to stay for another two months to do survey work in co-operatives with Dr. Norman Riley.

The international context of the course was very interesting for me. It was a wonderful and very memorable experience.

The 'sights and sounds' of Antigonish, of a temperate country, were beautiful for me. I enjoyed every bit of my stay and studies at the Coady. The ever-available milk one could drink from a "drinker" fountain at the Coady was something I could not imagine. I relished the snow as much as I could, although the cold winds biting our ears, nose, hands and feet whenever we walked downtown was just too unpleasant.

Our studies at the Coady introduced me to various development ideas particularly the Antigonish Movement and its principles - co-operation, understanding a community and strategies for community development. Often we read about, reflected and discussed the principles of the Antigonish Movement.

On the lighter side, the participants put on cultural shows, were assigned Canadian families to stay with during Christmas break, had field trips, and the like. All these experiences made significant contributions to my leadership formation and training at the Coady.

I am grateful for that wonderful experience that has definitely shaped my thoughts and professional development. Agricultural and rural development work has been my professional commitment ever since. Over the years, I have been actively involved in organizing, promoting and playing various leadership roles in establishing co-operatives in the Philippines. I continue to be active on this front, in fellowship with other colleagues in development through the SEARSOLIN and the Outreach Programs of the College of Agriculture, Xavier University.

Currently, we have embarked on an action-research project with the Coady that will test and apply the Asset-Based Community Development approach.

All the best,
Anselmo B. Mercado
Director
South East Asia Rural Social Leadership
Institute (SEARSOLIN)
Coady Graduate 1963



AlumniInsight provides an opportunity for our alumni to share their ideas and experiences with fellow development professionals around the world. We invite our graduates to tell us about how your experience at the Coady Institute has benefited your professional development, your organization and your community.

PREMESE Launches New Diploma Program

PREMESE Africa Development Institute – one of the Coady Institute's partner organizations – has recently launched a **Diploma in Community-Based Development (Distance Learning Option)**. Offered in collaboration with the Coady Institute, this one-year program by distance and part-time learning is designed for middle level management and field-based community development workers from governmental, non-governmental and church-development agencies.

Started by Executive Director Francis Wambua Mulwa (DI80) and others in January 1992, PREMESE is a professional community development training and evaluation service offering training and consultancy in participatory management, planning and evaluation, as well as leadership and community development skills.



For more information contact PREMESE at premese@africaonline.co.ke

Dr. Sean Riley, President of St. Francis Xavier University, presents a Premese graduate with her Diploma in Community-Based Development (Distance Learning Option) at the Premese graduation ceremonies in Nairobi, Kenya on May 18, 2002.

2002 Learning & Innovations Institute

Enhancing Natural Resources and Livelihoods Globally through Community-Based Resource Management

The Centre for Community-Based Management, a joint initiative of the Coady International Institute and the Extension Department at St. Francis Xavier University, brought together community-based resource management (CBRM) practitioners from around the globe in Antigonish, Nova Scotia, for the 2002 Learning & Innovations Institute.

From November 6-9, 2002, over 100 senior CBRM practitioners and academics from 22 countries around the world participated in the three-day institute. They were joined by Coady staff and students, Extension Department staff, other StFX faculty, and members of the public. Individuals enrolled in the Coady's Certificate Program in Community-Based Resource Management participated in the Learning & Innovations Institute as part of the program curriculum.

Community-Based Resource Management builds on the wisdom, social resiliency and cultural integrity of local communities in the way they make a living from the land, the water and the air that surrounds them. Given the widespread ecological degradation and depletion of natural resources, the Centre for Community-Based Management identified a critical opportunity to assemble some of the leading CBRM practitioners to describe successes, develop even more effective strategies and strengthen global co-operation. Discussions focused on:

- successes and challenges of communities managing their own resources;
- emerging CBRM models;
- communities learning from and sharing with each other and effectively participating in global networks; and,
- communities furthering CBRM not only as a strategy for economically and environmentally sustainable resource management, but also as a strategy for achieving positive social change.

To review recommendations resulting from the 2002 Learning & Innovations Institute, please visit the Coady Institute's website at www.sfx.ca/institutes/coady

Peaceful march for Land Reform in India

Olga Gladkikh, *Manager of Direct Education Programs*

Last September, while most people were glued to their television sets watching the horrific aftermath of the terrorist attacks in the United States, in a remote village in northern India a group of 300 dedicated social activists, Gandhian scholars and supporters, were coming to the end of their first day of marching for justice for the poor in the state of Bihar. Over the next 30 days (September 11 – October 11), the procession would peacefully wind its way through 260 villages, over 500 kilometres, until it reached the state capital, Patna. Along the way, the march gathered supporters from around the state, the country and the world.

The foot march or *padyatra* is a non-violent means of civil disobedience first used by Mahatma Gandhi. Based on the Hindu concept of *satyagraha*, the assertion of truth through firmness and patience, Gandhi used active non-co-operation and civil disobedience to stand up to British oppression, and as a result won India its independence.

Today, the oppressor is closer to home. Bihar is described as one of the most dangerous, violent, lawless states in the country. While it is rich in natural resources and arable land, it is also one of the poorest states. Most of the land is controlled by

upper caste landlords or *Zamindars* (hereditary holdovers from the colonial days who collect revenues for local leaders). The landless, who live in perpetual poverty, have few choices – either find work as an agricultural laborer or migrate. Many choose the latter – 40 per cent of the workforce in Delhi, for example, are from Bihar. The men often leave behind women and children who must fend for themselves in their absence, leaving them vulnerable to violence, abuse and land grabbing by higher caste villagers.

Land rights – land ceiling laws and tiller rights to land which lower caste families have farmed for generations – are guaranteed

under Indian law and in the Constitution. Bihar, in fact, was the first state to amend its Land Reform Act, yet very little action has been taken to improve the lot of the poor.

According to Ekta Parishad, by some estimates 1,800,000 people in the state are without land to cultivate and/or have no suitable shelter. In September, the media were reporting starvation deaths brought on by flooding in some parts of the state, drought in others.

The situation in this semi-feudal state continues to exist due to apathy on the part of both central and state authorities, corruption, exploitation, the suppression of human rights and reform groups, and casteism. Local newspapers are full of stories about violent incidents involving caste armies or “protection groups” in rural areas fighting over scarce resources, particularly land.

The problems of Bihar epitomize rural politics. Whoever controls land, commands political power. Members of Parliament are

dependent on the electorate; the electorate depends on landowners for their home and livelihood. A landowner who can rely on vast numbers to support his concerns is then a significant influence (Indian politics has a phrase for this support, “vote banks”).

Any legislation or policy, therefore, which challenges the privileged position of the landlord, such as fair wage policies, trade union membership, protection from arbitrary eviction, or land reform is either subverted or ignored. The inevitable frustration has led some peasant groups to armed militancy.

The purpose of the *padyatra* was to direct attention to the issue of land rights for the poor by using strategic collective non-violent action to effect social change. Ekta Parishad – a mass-based people’s organization based in the state of Madhya Pradesh – took the lead role in mobilizing a network of support for the campaign under the leadership

of noted Gandhian thinker and activist, Rajgopal P.V.

In 1999, Ekta Parishad led a successful six-month *padyatra* for land reform in Madhya Pradesh where, by government reports, the absolute poor – primarily tribals and landless people – number about 45 per cent. In a state where feudalism has prevailed since time immemorial, Ekta Parishad was able to mobilize millions to put pressure on the government of Madhya Pradesh. Their action led to the creation of a task force to hear people’s grievances with the authority to take action on land reform.

Ekta Parishad hoped to have the same success in Bihar.

“Bihar will be different if you aren’t indifferent” was the rallying cry as the procession made its way through the state’s small villages and towns. Drawn by the sound of the chanting marchers, banners, street theatre and awareness songs, crowds gathered at each point along the carefully organized route. For the first time in 30 years people were given some hope of a possible breakthrough in an otherwise sectarian and violence prone existence.

The *padyatra* especially succeeded in providing a forum for women. Even when the *padyatra* arrived late at night or at odd times during the day, many women would be waiting. Even if it was taboo for women to join public meetings, or speak out as a low caste woman in front of high caste village members, nevertheless they met in smaller groups.

In one situation close to *Jamoi* town, the *padyatra* had stopped to lunch at a community hall hosted by a high caste group. An uninvited woman representing a dalit group waited outside and managed to get the attention of a number of the *padyatrees* (marchers) inside the hall. At her request, a group of them followed her to a *jhonpri* (slum) close by behind the railway station. *Jarna* was a dynamic leader who had been elected as president of her *samaj* (a local society). Although she was no taller than four feet, her voice was loud and powerful. She confidently represented the many dalit families in that area that had been pushed off their land due to quarrels with the landholding communities. She drew attention to the fact that many of the families were headed by women. Now that they are squatting illegally in the towns with nowhere else to go, she is working to get them organized so that they can press the government for housing plots.



Some of the over 300 social activists who marched for justice for the poor in the state of Bihar.

The bhu adikar abhiyan (land reform campaign) in Bihar used various other advocacy methods, in addition to the padyatra, to draw attention to the issues of land reform.

Advocating at the political level:

Drawing the attention of those who make or influence land policies was done before, during and after the campaign. Meetings were held with top political leaders from all parties, including the former Chief Minister of the state, Laloo Prasad Yadav who still wields considerable power. Some local and state level politicians even joined the padyatra as it neared the state capital, Patna.

Advocating with public administration:

Meetings with public officials were held in every village before the padyatra arrived to inform them of the march and encourage their support for it. Every evening during the padyatra there was a “jan adilat” or public hearing in the designated village. During these public hearings people had the opportunity to describe the problems they were facing in accessing land. Their grievances were heard by local authorities whose responsibility it is to take action, and were documented for further action in the courts by lawyers volunteering with Ekta Parishad. During the month-long padyatra, social mobilizers collected 13,346 land cases. Those cases are now being validated.

Advocating with other civil society organizations:

Consultations with community activists, women’s groups, university researchers, as well as national and international non-government organizations working in the area, were held before and during the padyatra to plan strategy and encourage greater involvement in the necessary follow-up actions to be taken.

Advocating with local and national media:

Rallying the media was a key part of the padyatra, before, during and after the event.

A Delhi-based media and research group called Kriti co-ordinated the dissemination of press releases which were sent in from field-based journalists walking with the procession or working in the Patna-based advocacy office. These reports were also posted on a website operated by another support organization, the Partners Council of India, and linked with other sites for broader reach.



One of the padyatra participants speaks with villagers prior to “jan adilat” to explain the importance of voicing their concerns regarding land rights.

Advocating internationally:

International media and social justice networks were also targeted, particularly in Europe and Canada. Various organizations helped to spread the word about the ongoing padyatra in Bihar, including SAP Canada, Caritas India, Action Village India in the United Kingdom and Reseau Solidarite in France.

During the padyatra, sympathizers, many of them youth, came from different countries to join the march and lend their support. Some were Nepali, British, French, Swiss, Canadian, American and they, in turn, returned to speak about or write articles about their experience for dissemination in their countries.

More than 4,000 letters urging the Indian government to take action were sent from France; in Switzerland a demonstration was held in front of the Indian embassy. In Canada, a grandmother named Pat Love led a solidarity walk from Ottawa to Peterborough to make the link between land issues in Bihar and the issue of homelessness and the lack of social housing in Canada.

Together this activity made many more people outside India aware of land rights issues in Bihar and in the country as a whole.

Many people have rallied to Ekta Parishad’s call to rebuild Bihar. Their continued energy and ideas will be needed to do the necessary follow-up work required if their goal of a “different” Bihar is to be achieved.

A youth movement was initiated to rebuild the state. Between January and June 2002, about 3,000 youth were mobilized to take forward the initiatives of the Bihar padyatra, including channeling their energy into constructive activities such as clearing canals and tanks. Youth camps were also organized to create opportunities for dialogue with and between farmers and laborers. Women will receive training about land rights and how they can participate in their communities.

In March and September 2002, the Partner’s Council of India hosted two seminars on non-violent action in India. The seminars examined

a range of non-co-operation techniques suited to fostering attitude and behavior change in various contexts.

Ekta Parishad is gearing up to make land reform a national issue. More padyatras on land reform are being organized in other states such as Orissa.

As a result of September 11, now more than ever, there is a need to create effective non-violent approaches to social change if we want to move beyond the war on terrorism and begin the necessary rebuilding required for the well-being of our communities, our societies, and the globe.



Olga Gladkikh manages the Coady Institute’s educational programs and teaches in the Certificate Program in Advocacy and Networking. In September 2001 she had an opportunity to participate in the Bihar padyatra on land reform and was a member of the international media team assembled to disseminate information.

Civil Society Participation

continued from page 1

We were honored to have Jayshree Vyas, Managing Director of SEWA Bank, our partner in India, co-facilitating our Microfinance certificate with us in November. The other certificates offered at that time included; Management of Development Organizations; Advocacy and Networking and Community-Based Resource Management.



Jayshree Vyas, Managing Director of Sewa Bank, is greeted by Coady Associate, Jabulani Manombe-Ncube (1999 Diploma Graduate) at the Coady Institute.

For all Coady staff, excellence in education can only be achieved by being directly engaged with development practice throughout the world and by working with our alumni and partners on innovation. This year staff have been working in India, Thailand, Sri Lanka, the Philippines, Vietnam, South Africa, Botswana, Rwanda, Ghana, Sierra Leone, Ethiopia, Egypt, and Armenia.

2003 will be an important year for us. It is the 150th anniversary of St. Francis Xavier University. It is also the year that we complete our five-year Education for Action plan and commence an even more ambitious program.

There is still much to do to ensure peace, justice, prosperity and a sustainable future for all people. The Coady International Institute will reassert Moses Coady's "real democratic formula" – the peaceful formula with civil society participation at its heart.



Xtending Hope

Krista Hall, 2002 Coady Fellow

Responding to a plea for help from Stephen Lewis, United Nations special envoy on AIDS in Africa, St. Francis Xavier University has spearheaded Xtending Hope - an initiative aimed at helping the people of Rwanda and Botswana address the HIV/AIDS crisis.

HIV/AIDS has left many African countries with a critical shortage of human resources with which to address the pandemic. Lewis identified Rwanda and Botswana as among those hardest hit by AIDS.

In fact, of Botswana's 1.5 million residents, 35.8 per cent of its have contracted the disease while the infection rate in Rwanda is 11.2 per cent amongst those 15-49 years old. In some villages entire generations have died from AIDS leaving a large number of children orphaned. Hospital resources are also dwindling, making it difficult to handle the number of dying.

StFX became the first university to answer the call made by Stephen Lewis - for Canadian citizens and institutions to help deal with the pandemic before it is too late for any real gains to be made in development.

The first step was to identify the skills and expertise available in the extended StFX community to support the many important projects underway in both Rwanda and Botswana.

Several areas of the university community have joined together in this effort – including members of the Students' Union and Alumni Association as well as faculty and staff from the Coady International Institute and such departments as Education, Nursing, Human Nutrition, Psychology, Adult Education and Development Studies.

In January of 2002, four StFX representatives went on a two-week fact finding tour of Rwanda and Botswana. They discovered that many agencies were eager to collaborate with the university.

"The people we met in Rwanda and Botswana were very clear about the kind of support they're looking for," says Mary Coyle, StFX University Vice President and Director of the Coady International

Institute. "They have many important projects underway and given the broad range of skills and expertise held by members of the StFX family, we've decided to focus on areas of health care, education, nutrition and community development."

Coyle, along with Alumni Affairs officer Noreen Nunn, Education Department chair Ann Sherman, and Colleen Cameron of the Nursing Department and the Coady Institute spent several days in early January meeting with government officials, grassroots organizations and international aid agencies to explore what StFX has to offer in helping people with their on-going efforts.

The Xtending Hope organizing committee is continuing to gather resource people. "We're encouraging people who are interested in the partnership to contact us," says Coyle, who helped co-ordinate the StFX initiative. "The partnership will be fully launched once funding is secured. In the meantime, our intention is to identify opportunities for people to get directly involved in helping to make a difference in Rwanda and Botswana."

It is the hope of those organizing Xtending Hope that it will serve as a model for other institutions. "Similar to other universities, StFX and the Coady Institute cannot provide financial support to development initiatives. However, we recognized that, as an educational institution dedicated to community development, the

Coady can play an important role in helping to build the capacity of the dedicated organizations and people of Rwanda and Botswana."

As part of the Coady Institute's contribution to Xtending Hope, seven of the 15 young Canadians

participating in its 2002-2003 International Youth Internship Program are working for 6 months with community organizations focusing on the HIV/AIDS crisis in Rwanda and Botswana. The interns who departed in August will be helping to build and strengthen the capacities of organizations working on HIV/AIDS, foster a deeper understanding among Canadians of the impact of crisis, and identify ways in which people can help.



For more information about the Xtending Hope initiative please visit the Coady International Institute website at:
www.stfx.ca/institutes/coady

We hear from...



Hello friends at Coady...

Sharif A. Kafi (DI86) was promoted to the position of Advisor for Training, Research, Peace and Human Rights at Bangladesh Development Partnership Centre in 2000. He is currently leading a research team examining the field of illegal small arms and violence in Bangladesh.

Philip Oyath Deng (DI99), livestock and veterinary officer for the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK), was transferred from the headquarters in Prizren to Kosovo's capital, Pristina in July 2001. His work in Pristina focuses on country-wide livestock issues, specifically animal production and health.

Scott Smith (DI86) is now working with the Emmanuel Hospital Association (EHA) as Associate for Community Organizing Skills Training. The EHA works to promote community health and empowerment programs through community self-help groups.

Senbeto Belengo (DI93) is now the supervisor of the Community Based Distributors' Family Planning Project (CBD/FP) of Katchabira District with the Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus South Central Synod (EECMY – SCS).

S. P. Doss (DI92) became the Assistant Director of The Leprosy Mission in January 2001. This 127-year old international christian organization works in 30 countries in South Asia and Africa helping rehabilitate and treat half a million leprosy patients through their numerous hospitals and community-based socio-economic programs.

After three decades of working world-wide as an educator, facilitator and emergency humanitarian aid worker **Peter Reardon** (DI68) of Victoria, Canada is now completing his PhD in Adult Education in addition to working as a freelance adult educator for critical social change.

Stephen Sushil Halder (DI83) joined the Co-operative Credit Union League of Bangladesh Ltd. (CCULB) as General Manager and Chief Executive Officer in 1994. Under his leadership, 900 new credit unions were formed, joining the existing 100 members of the CCULB.

John Kennedy Alumasa Obisa (DI01) is now working with UNICEF as an Assistant Programme Communications Officer. He is responsible for human rights programming and communications in all programs. Recently he helped co-ordinate successful UNICEF efforts to monitor and contain a Malaria epidemic in 12 Districts of Kenya.

Stuart Clark (DI77) is now Senior Policy Advisor at the Canadian Foodgrains Bank in Winnipeg, Manitoba. He analyzes Canadian foreign aid and international trade policies as they affect the food security of people living in poverty. He also chairs the Canadian NGO Food Security Policy Group.

Vikas Gora (DI01) is now working for Care India – Andhra Pradesh as a Program Associate for the organization's new Andhra Pradesh Disaster Mitigation and Preparedness Project. The project focuses on reducing vulnerability in the nine coastal districts and two flood prone districts of Andhra Pradesh, South India.

Emmanuel Obeng (DI00) is now a Zonal Manager at the Planned Parenthood Association of Ghana (PPAG). He is responsible for supervising 70 staff members in one of three zones, ensuring the implementation of PPAG's sexual and reproductive health programs.

Ashfaq Ahmed Nizamani (DI00) was married on January 13th, 2002 and shortly thereafter hired at Aga Khan Foundation (Pakistan) as the Programme Officer of Early Childhood Education. He is now based in Islamabad leading a team in Sindh and Balochistan provinces.

As of February 2002, **Mukesh Singh** (DI98) was promoted to the post of Director for Nepal Red Cross Society's Community Development Department. He is responsible for co-ordinating the activities of the various community development units such as drinking water and sanitation, water quality improvement and community-based first aid.

Ben Skosana (DI80) has served as the Minister of Correctional Services for South Africa since 1998. Since his appointment, he has spearheaded the drafting of the Correctional Services Bill focusing on the rights and duties of prisoners as well as investigating corruption, security and health risks in prisons.

Gopal Shrestha (DI97) was promoted to the position of Project Manager for Care International-Nepal. He is now working in Bajura district implementing health, savings and credit, and capacity building projects.

Nguyen Thanh Huong (DI00) became the first Vietnamese Canada Fund Co-ordinator in April 2001. Canada Fund finances small projects in an effort to assist community-based organizations and NGOs to develop self-reliance and sustainability, gain access and control of limited resources and assets, and contribute to ongoing, long-term and integrated community development.

George Cheriyan (DI92) is now working as a development and environment consultant based in Lucknow, India. He continues to serve as the Honorary Secretary and Director of the Centre for Environment and Sustainable Development India and is a member of the United Nations Roster of Consultants. He was also involved in the preparations for the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg.

Rev. Fr. Cherian Thazhamon (DI92) is now the Corporate Manager of Schools of the Malankara Catholic Church – Tiruvalla Diocese and President of the Center for Environment and Sustainable Development India.

Upon his return from the Coady Institute, **Roberto Abeabe** (DI99) was appointed as Programme Officer for Oxfam – Great Britain's Assets and Markets Program. He is responsible for program development and specific aspects of the trade campaign such as devising exit strategies for fair trade partners.

Congratulations to **Amonia Paul Rolle** (DI94) on her marriage to Donald Rolle in December 2001. Rolle works for the Dominica Ministry of Community Development and Gender Affairs as District Development Officer. She is responsible for the supervision and training of village and city councils, for the development of culture in the district and for disaster management at the community level.

Julius Manthi (DI97) and his wife Rosa were blessed with a son, Eric, on January 6, 2001. Julius currently works in Machakos, Kenya as a senior trainer for Insitut Africain pour la Development Economique et Social Formation.

Tazemul Haque (DI92) is now working as Deputy General Manager for Grameen Uddog in Bangladesh, a sister organization of the Grameen Bank. He is responsible for the Technology and Development department and is currently working with poor rural handloom weavers promoting rural based trade and industry.

CONTACT US

If you would care to receive the Coady Connections newsletter electronically, contact us with your e-mail address. If your contact information has changed please let us know. Submissions are welcome.

Coady Collaborates in Undergraduate Development Studies Program at StFX

In 2001, the Coady Institute, together with various departments and programs in the Faculty of Arts and the Faculty of Science, introduced the StFX Development Studies Program.

The program is designed for undergraduate students who want to learn about community-based development theory and practice locally, nationally and internationally. Drawing from the principles and practice of the Antigonish Movement, a social movement grounded in community-based social and economic development, this unique program gives students the opportunity to work with both university faculty as well as the Coady's teaching staff.

The Bachelor of Arts degree in Development Studies is interdisciplinary. Students completing a major or advanced major in Development Studies must choose another arts discipline such as economics, sociology or political science in order to complete a joint degree.

In addition to offering short-term international internship opportunities to some students, staff at the StFX Extension Department help other Development Studies students find local internship opportunities with community-based development projects. As a result, the students gain a deeper understanding of the world, development theory and practice, as well as the skills they need to apply this knowledge.

For more information on the undergraduate Development Studies Program, contact Dr. Clare Fawcett, program co-ordinator at cfawcett@stfx.ca.

New Programs @ the Coady Institute

The Coady Institute has recently introduced several new Certificate Programs, including *Community-Based Resource Management, Advocacy & Networking*, and *Managing NGO Resource Centres*. In May of this year, *Community Development Leadership: A Certificate for Women* was introduced. This innovative new program is highlighted below.

COADY PROGRAMS

PROGRAM

Diploma

Community-Based Development

DATE

July 7 – December 5, 2003

Certificates

Advocacy & Networking

November 10 – 28, 2003

Community-Based Microfinance

November 10 – 28, 2003

Management of Development Organizations

November 10 – 28, 2003

Community-Based Resource Management

November 10 – 28, 2003

Community-Driven Development : Asset-Based Approach

May 19 – June 6, 2003

Managing NGO Resource Centres

May 12 – June 6, 2003

For more information on any of our educational programs please visit our website at www.stfx.ca/institutes/coady or contact: The Registrar, Coady International Institute, PO Box 5000, Antigonish, Nova Scotia, Canada B2G 2W5
E-mail: mtoogood@stfx.ca Phone: 902.867.3953 Fax: 902.867.3907

We are continuing our efforts to improve and enhance the educational offerings at the Coady Institute. In 2003, we will be adding another certificate, *Community-Driven Development: The Asset-Based Approach*, to our suite of educational programs.



Leadership Certificate for Women

In May of 2002, the Coady International Institute introduced a new four-week program to provide women development workers with the necessary knowledge and skills to be effective decision makers and help lead their organizations and communities in more effective ways. Eighteen women from 11 countries attended the new certificate program.

Community Development Leadership: A Certificate for Women will be offered May 12 - June 6, 2003. The program aims to enhance and clarify concepts and theories of development and critically examine various contemporary and leading-edge approaches. By recognizing and valuing the development experiences of the candidates the program aims to build on these experiences to help them examine the gendered dimensions of their organization and work.

The program is designed for women with at least three years of experience in community-based development. While eligible candidates do not require a university degree, a post-secondary education is considered an asset.

Participants of the 2002 Community Development Leadership - A Certificate for Women gather with several staff members on campus.

Coady Hosts International Forum on Active Citizen Engagement

The Coady International Institute hosted the first Learning and Innovations Institute from August 16-18, 2001. Entitled *Democracy and Active Citizen Engagement: Best Practices in Advocacy and Networking*, the initiative brought together 15 experienced activists, academics and researchers from 12 countries to examine various approaches in helping people become “active citizens.”

Resource people attending the Institute presented papers which will provide the basis for a publication on best practices in advocacy and networking. Ultimately, the goal of the Institute was to contribute to the achievement of greater social and economic equity, better management of natural resources and more equitable access to information in countries around the world.

Participants pointed out that the protests that occurred in Seattle, Quebec City and Genoa represent just one example of how individuals are seeking a stronger public voice.

Warren Allmand, past-president of Rights & Democracy and former Liberal cabinet minister in the Canadian government, who served as a parliamentarian for over three decades, said that in order for citizens to invoke the change they’re seeking “they need to be not only well prepared – but they must have faith in the potential of civil society.”

He said that there are examples around the world of grass-roots efforts that have changed the course of history.

“I remember, not so long ago when people were saying that there will always be apartheid in South Africa, that there will always be a Berlin Wall – the people have proved that change can happen and that the walls will come down.”

Maria Fides Bagasao traveled from Manila in the Philippines to attend



Some participants of the 2002 Learning and Innovations Institute gather together near the heart of SIFX campus. Front row (l-r): Maria Bagasao, Jabu Manombe-Ncube, Valerie Miller, Thomas Turay. Middle row: Jean Moffatt, Olga Gladkikh, Saloni Singh, Annie Brisibe, Mary Coyle, Peggy Antrobus, Juliette Dworzak. Back row: Cristina Vladu, Derek Naidoo, Jill Carr-Harris, Warren Allmand, Manoj Rai.

the Coady’s Learning and Innovations Institute. At a public presentation held as part of the Institute, she spoke of her direct involvement in the People’s Power 2 movement which was successful in ousting ex-President Joseph Estrada from power in January 2001.

“It wasn’t easy being part of the movement process,” said Bagasao, “there was always fear of a coup d’etat. But the uprising saw more than just the notable political and military figures vying for power. Ordinary people – mothers, children and youth – were ready to sacrifice their lives.”

When asked to explain why the commitment to change was so strong, Bagasao said “I think it is because of the incredible sense of family in the Filipino culture. These people were

willing to lay their lives down to ensure a better life for their children.”

“The challenge now,” she added, “is to make the most of this change by keeping the pressure on the government in order to secure a better future.”

Mary Coyle, Director of the Coady Institute and University Vice President of St. Francis Xavier University, said that the event represented a new approach to Coady’s on-going commitment to education in the field of community development.

“The Coady’s Learning and Innovations Institute allowed an international community to discuss practical and effective strategies and methods which enable people to get their voices heard – in a way which will influence public opinion and public policy.”

“This represents a rich opportunity,” she explained, “to share and learn new and innovative approaches to

making positive change possible in the world.”

Each of the over 40 development professionals attending the Coady’s Diploma Program in Community-Based Development also had the opportunity to participate in the Learning and Innovations Institute. They examined advocacy issues in such areas as human rights, land rights, increasing the participation of women, the prevention of environmental degradation and the creation of laws which promotes inclusion for all citizens.



The 2001 Learning & Innovations Institute was supported by the International Development Research Centre, Rights & Democracy, and the Canadian International Development Agency’s Conference Secretariat.

Global Connections Centre

Coady Plans Move to Centre of Campus

StFX is creating a new Global Connections Centre which will serve as a hub for all the University's international activities, local community outreach and distance education. The new Centre will house the Coady International Institute as well as the StFX Extension Department. The Coady will be moving back to its historical beginnings in the heart of StFX campus.



Three heritage buildings – Aquinas, Augustine and the Somers Complex – in the heart of campus will be restored and renovated to create the Global Connections Centre. The Centre will be a state-of-the-art facility equipped with information and communications technology allowing the Coady and StFX to enhance the global dimensions of its teaching and research. The Coady will be positioned as an even more important player in the future of StFX.

The Global Connections Centre will:

- Provide enhanced opportunities for face-to-face and technologically mediated interaction among students, the local community and the global community
- Provide a central location on campus for StFX undergraduate and Coady students to connect, interact and learn from one another
- Enable the Coady International Institute to dramatically increase its reach and impact through its educational programs and network of global partners
- Expand the reach of Coady's specialized Marie Michael Library
- Facilitate the development of Coady's distance education capacity in the field of global development
- Enhance support for other related University initiatives and the development of new academic programs
- House a new Interpretive Centre which will highlight the Coady Institute's historical roots in the Antigonish Movement and its outreach throughout the world
- Provide for expanded Coady Youth Programs, offering innovative career training opportunities to university graduates
- Be a focal point for international delegations, alumni and other visitors to campus

The Centre is an important part of the University's plan to expand and enhance its international work. This bold plan also includes the establishment of a new Chair in Social Justice and an endowed Coady Global Bursary Fund. Renovation of the facilities should commence in the next two years.

Youth Programs Update

International Youth Internship Program

Fifteen young Canadians selected for Coady's Youth Internship Program 2002/2003 embarked on their six-month overseas development placements in August, 2002. This year, seven of the interns are working with organizations in Rwanda and Botswana as part of StFX and Coady's Xtending Hope partnership. Launched in January, Xtending Hope aims to provide much needed human resources and support to the two African countries battling the HIV/AIDS crisis.

Since 1997, the Coady's International Youth Internship Program (CIYIP) has given over 80 Canadian university graduates experience working with Southern development organizations in their area of expertise, to help them increase their understanding of development issues and participate in their roles as global citizens. The program is also aimed at providing experience that will improve participants' employment opportunities when they return from their internship.

Due to a travel advisory by the Canadian Department of Foreign Affairs at the time of placement identification, we regret that we were unable to send any interns to India and Nepal.



Coady interns, Rob Ives and Cathleen Connell attend a youth rally in Gisenyi province, Rwanda with t-shirts bearing the message 'youth are the foundation in the fight against HIV/AIDS'

Youth Programs Update *cont ...*

International Youth Fellowship Program

In June of 2002, Coady Fellows, Aaron MacDonald, Maggy Burns, Krista Hall, and Daren Okafo returned from their four-month international work experience where they gained a first-hand perspective on community development.

Aaron MacDonald says that his Coady Fellowship in Monitoring and Evaluation gave him the opportunity to visit both “grand and humble” development initiatives in Kenya, while also opening his eyes to the important role NGOs play in development. MacDonald traveled throughout much of Kenya, interviewing several Coady graduates to assess the impact their education at Coady had in their practice of community development.

“I admire the ability of the people in Kenya to work and come together in times of need,” says MacDonald. “It’s encouraging that the community members themselves are able to have great impact.”

Maggy Burns, whose fellowship focused on Community-Based Resource Management, was able to share her entrepreneurial expertise with fishers and women’s groups in the Philippines where she facilitated several enterprise development workshops for the Haribon Foundation. This was in addition to her work on the island of Anda with the University of the Philippines College of Social Work and Community Development (CSWCD) where she helped local communities identify alternative livelihoods through participatory research. This work was co-ordinated through the Community-Based Coastal Resource Management Resource Centre (CBCRMRC) based in Manila.

“They have a long history of great CBRM work in the Philippines,” says Burns. “The orientation that I had at Coady prior to getting involved in the CBCRM projects was wonderful. It is incredible how much clearer your understanding becomes when you can see things in action!”

Upon her return to Canada, Burns assisted in organizing the 2002 Learning and Innovations Institute: *Enhancing Natural Resources and Livelihoods Globally through Community-Based Resource Management*. Burns helped co-ordinate logistics for the three-day institute which brought together CBRM practitioners from around the globe to discuss the successes and challenges of communities managing their own resources.



Coady Fellow, Aaron MacDonald (centre), visits with 1997 Coady Graduate, Julius Manthi (left) and his colleague Martin Wafula (right) near the site of a rural development initiative in Makweni, Kenya.

Krista Hall, Communications Fellow, traveled throughout Southern India meeting and interviewing over 50 Coady graduates and the many community members with which they worked. The Coady initiated this communication project to recognize the development efforts of graduates with a compilation of articles about community development. What inspired Hall most was the hope, determination and conviction of the poor to improve their situations against great odds.

“What I found most amazing was that the people who were the most disadvantaged – those deemed outcast and unworthy – were unwavering in their conviction to improve their communities,” she says. “One village woman who belongs to a self-help group said to me with such pride, ‘now that we’ve come together and know our rights we’re not afraid to stand-up to government officials and ask

for what we deserve.’ It’s these baby-step achievements that made me realize how important community development is in the lives of ordinary people.”

Daren Okafo was helping Coady investigate opportunities for technology facilitated distance education during his fellowship in Innovative Approaches to Education and Public Information. While overseas in Cairo, Egypt he worked with Coady’s global partners, the Coptic Evangelical Organization for Social Services and the Centre for Development Services, designing a proposal for Coady distance education.

“My experience in Cairo was possibly one of the most instrumental in my career as a development worker,” says Okafo. “It allowed me to experience how my role fits into the broader picture of international development and in the process learn about life in another culture.”

The fellows joined the Coady Institute in September to gain work experience in community-based development. Unlike the Coady Youth Interns who assist Southern agencies for six months, the fellows work on Coady projects for the entirety of their term. The ten-month Fellowship Program, now in its second year, aims to promote the development of young Canadian community development workers through local and international work experience.



Coady Fellow, Krista Hall (left), speaks with young villagers in Vijayawada, India. While there she interviewed several Coady graduates working at Vasavya Mahila Mandali, an NGO focused on the holistic development of women and children.

Staff Update

Natasha Hopkins joined the Coady Institute in November of 2001, bringing with her six years of experience in fundraising and organizational development. She has worked for a number of Canadian and International NGOs, including the David Suzuki Foundation, a leading Canadian environmental organization, and is familiar with direct mail, corporate fundraising, individual gifts, foundations and other international donors. She has a long-standing interest and involvement in the international community, working and traveling throughout Europe, Central America, Asia, the South Pacific and the Caribbean. Natasha holds an MA (Cum Laude, European Studies) from the Catholic University of Leuven (Belgium), as well as a BA (Languages) from the University of Calgary.

Nanci Lee joined the Coady Institute in 2002 to teach in the areas of Philosophy of Development and Community-Based Microfinance. She has worked mainly in microfinance with particular interests in leadership development, capacity building and livelihood issues. In addition to her experience in Canadian microfinance, Nanci has lived and worked overseas in Colombia, Bolivia and Mozambique. Currently, she is collaborating with fellow staff member, Gord Cunningham, on the capacity building initiative with the Self-Employed Women's Association in India. She has a MSc (Rural Planning and Development) from Guelph University, a BA (English Literature and Economics) from Trent University and a BEEd from Queen's University.

Alexis MacDonald joined the Coady Institute in 2001 as the Youth Programs Co-ordinator. She oversees Coady's youth programs, including the International Youth Internship Program. Alexis joined the Coady after working as a program co-ordinator for Canada World Youth in Jamaica. A participant in Coady's 1999 International Youth Internship Program, she worked for six months with the Green Earth Organization in Ghana, helping to educate communities about the organization's environmental conservation projects throughout the country. Alexis received a BA (Psychology) from St. Francis Xavier University.

Janet MacDonald was hired in January of 2002 as Secretary of Direct Education Programs. Her work focuses on ensuring that prospective candidates and funding agencies receive up-to-date information concerning current programs. Janet holds a BA (Secretarial Arts) from St. Francis Xavier University and a Certificate in Office Information Technology from the Nova Scotia Community College.

Dr. Thomas Mark Turay joined the Coady Institute in 1999. He has over 20 years of experience in the field of development. Prior to his arrival at the Coady, he was the Director and co-founder of the Centre for Development and Peace Education in Makeni, Sierra Leone. Thomas also has held the position of Director for Caritas Makeni in the northern province of Sierra Leone. The primary focus of his work has been in the areas of human rights and advocacy. At the Institute he teaches courses in adult education, community-based development, training of trainers as well as peacebuilding and conflict transformation. Thomas received a PhD (Adult Education and Community Development) and a MA (Adult Education and Community Development) from the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education, University of Toronto.

Debbie Murphy joined the staff in September of 2000 as Secretary to the Director. Debbie is responsible for the organization of the Director's schedule both domestically and internationally. She has worked at StFX for over 20 years, with such departments as History, Economics, Modern Languages, Celtic Studies, Sociology and Anthropology. Debbie holds a BA (Sociology) from St. Francis Xavier University.

Mary Coyle, Director of the Coady International Institute, was appointed University Vice President of St. Francis Xavier University in June of 2001. In this role she is responsible for all outreach activities of the University, including the StFX Extension Department, the StFX Enterprise Development Centre and the Coady International Institute.

Hugh Landry, Manager of the Global Partnerships Program and Co-ordinator of Financial Services, was appointed Assistant Director of the Coady International Institute in July of 2000. In this role he works with the Director to develop and implement the Institute's strategies, priorities and programming. He is also responsible for the overall co-ordination of finances, facilities and administration of the Institute, overseeing the development of policies and systems, and managing the Coady's contracts and agreements with outside agencies.

Olga Gladkikh, Manager of Direct Education Programs, is taking a one-year study leave, as of June 2002, to pursue a doctorate in Adult Education Research at the University of Nottingham. **Sue Adams** is the Interim Manager of Direct Education Programs. Sue is the Librarian of the Coady's Marie Michael Library and has more than 20 years experience in information management, adult education and human rights work. She co-ordinates the Certificate Program in Managing NGO Resource Centres and has co-facilitated in other programs including both Adult Education and Advocacy and Networking.

Daren Okafo was appointed Technology and Innovations Co-ordinator for the Coady Institute in December 2002. Daren joined the staff in 2001 as a Fellow in Innovative Approaches to Education and Public Information. Prior to joining the Coady, he was a founding member of the Endemik project, an artist-based new media arts collective in Halifax. Daren has over 10 years experience developing internet technology. His current work involves the application of technology and new media tools to community development specific distance education as well as the design and development of Coady web applications and Knowledge Networks. He will also be examining the potential role of web services in the field of international and community development. Daren received a BSc (Biology-Psychology) from the University of New Brunswick.

Lifelong E-Mail

Lifelong e-mail forwarding is a new service that will allow all Coady alumni to register for an e-mail account at StFX that will be theirs for life. The lifetime e-mail forwarding service will help alumni keep in better touch with each other and with the Coady Institute.

Simply e-mail aarsenau@stfx.ca to receive your identification number which verifies that you are a graduate of StFX. Then register for your lifelong e-mail address by visiting:

http://alumni.stfx.ca/lifetime_email/

Click on 'registration' and enter your name and identification number. Once authenticated as a StFX alumnus you will choose a username that will become your e-mail address and a permanent password. You will also specify a forwarding e-mail address, that is, the address to which you wish e-mail to be forwarded. Whenever you change personal e-mail accounts, you will be able to log into your lifelong e-mail account and change your forwarding address. You will also be able to login and search for other alumni addresses as well as update your information.



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