



AFICS BULLETIN

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ASSOCIATION OF FORMER INTERNATIONAL
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UNITED NATIONS – 65th

AFICS (NY) – 40th

**AFICS AT 40
ANNIVERSARY ISSUE**



"The mission of AFICS(NY) is to support and promote the purposes, principles and programmes of the UN System; to advise and assist former international civil servants and those about to separate from service; to represent the interests of its members within the System; to foster social and personal relationships among members, to promote their well-being and to encourage mutual support of individual members."

AFICS(NY) webpage: <<http://www.un.org/other/afics>>

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Unless otherwise noted, throughout the Bulletin the term "AFICS" is used to refer to AFICS (New York).

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NOTES from the PRESIDENT

AFICS (NY) @ 40

So AFICS (NY) is 40. Were we a retiring staff member with that length of service, we would now be qualified for a very healthy pension and other substantial benefits.

It seems natural and normal now, but the creation of our Association was the inspired initiative of a small group of visionaries. They considered it odd that the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Board had the benefit of representation by all stakeholders – governments, executive heads of UN organizations and serving staff members – but not that of the people who actually received the pensions, namely, the pensioners, the retired staff members of the United Nations.

Something needed to be done to correct that anomaly.

In truth, there was in existence at that time an Association of Former International Civil Servants in Geneva, which was known by its French acronym of **AAFI**. But its membership was mostly in Europe, with very few in the Western Hemisphere. Our founders felt that a similar organization in New York would be helpful in establishing a firmer basis for representation of the views of pensioners at the Pension Board.

They therefore embarked upon the process of mobilizing all known UN system pensioners located in the United States and Canada, which ultimately culminated in the establishment of AFICS in New York in 1970. The Association was inaugurated 40 years ago with 200 members. It now has nearly 3,700, a sub-



stantial growth in membership that has been matched by expansion in its scope of activities. Although the bulk of the membership is in North America, we have members located in 103 countries worldwide.

Understandably, the initial focus was on pensions as well as after-service health and insurance matters. But the activities have since expanded to issues of Aging, Legal, NGO and Information, Membership, Nominations, Social Affairs, Outreach and - very importantly, - **advocacy for the United Nations**. We have Standing Committees responsible for these matters. We also have a vibrant Charities Foundation which assists members and others in need, the most recent example being our contribution to relief in Haiti, following the recent earthquake tragedy in that country (see stories beginning from page 5).

We also publish the *AFICS Bulletin* you are reading, for dialogue, networking and information exchange, and as an advocacy vehicle for the United Nations. We serve as role models and inspiration for serving staff members, and provide assurance for UN staff about to retire, that there is life – good, useful life after retire-

ment. We do this especially at the pre-retirement briefings organized by UN Human Resources staff.

At our inception, the UN Secretary-General was **U Thant**, who gave the fledgling Association his full backing, encouragement and strong support. Since then, we have been honoured by, and most appreciative of similar support by his successors, several of whom are, indeed, Honorary Members of AFICS (NY), including the present incumbent, **H.E. Ban Ki-moon**, and his predecessor, **H.E. Kofi A. Annan**.

The par excellence categorization of the continuing strong bond between retirees, UN management and serving staff is in the following words of Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon, who has said to AFICS (New York):

UN staff are, of course, my main allies in carrying out my vision. But I continue to rely on the achievements, wisdom and institutional memory of those who came before – former international civil servants, such as you, whose formal careers with the Organization may have ended, but who remain vital members of the UN Community. To us, you are former interna-

tional civil servants on paper only; in practice, you remain valued members of the UN family. Your presence here confirms your active and engaged participation in our community and in the UN's work for a more peaceful and prosperous world. I count on you to be strong public advocates for the United Nations.

There is no way to express better the relationship between AFICS and the United Nations, the Organization to which most of us have happily and usefully devoted the whole of our life's work and professional careers.

I invite you to read in the following pages the very informative and illuminating articles by three of the Association's stalwarts: **Margaret K. (Molly) Bruce**, on our founding; **Federico Riesco** on our rationale and *raison d'être*; and **Jane Weidlund** on our initiatives, accomplishments and trends.

I wish everyone a Happy 40th Anniversary, and happy reading of this commemorative edition of your quarterly *AFICS (NY) Bulletin*.

Edward Omotoso, President

PLEASE SEND US YOUR CORRECT E-MAIL ADDRESS

Once again, we would like to remind you of the importance of notifying AFICS (NY) when you change your e-mail address.

Increasingly, we use e-mail as a means of sending our members important messages – only to have many returned, having failed to reach their destinations because our information is not up-to-date. Thus, not only do you not receive our communications on a timely basis, but precious office staff time and energy is wasted.

Therefore, if you have not yet done so – or whenever you make a change – please send your current e-mail address to us right away at afics@un.org. Thank you for doing so.



EARTHQUAKE TRAGEDY IN HAITI

UN Community, including Retirees, Mourn Their Own

“..the single greatest loss the United Nations has suffered in its history”

Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon

Relief and Rehabilitation Programmes Underway

Wreath Laying, Candlelight Vigil at UN Headquarters

The Secretary-General laid a wreath at UN Headquarters in honour of the victims of the earthquake in Haiti on Tuesday, 19 January 2010, at 4:53 pm. He called for a moment of silence throughout the UN system at that time, to coincide with the one-week anniversary of the quake. The ceremony took place in the GA Lobby near the Meditation Room.

Immediately following the wreath laying ceremony, there was a candlelight vigil in the plaza outside of the Visitors' Entrance. The United Nations Singers performed at both the wreath laying ceremony and during the candlelight vigil.

The wreath laying ceremony was web cast and all staff were invited to attend both events.

Memory of 101 UN Personnel Killed Honoured

The United Nations held a memorial ceremony at New York Headquarters on 9 March to honour the 101 civilians, military and police personnel of the Organization who perished in the 12 January Haiti earthquake.

Since the General Assembly Hall was not available due to construction, the ceremony was held in the Trusteeship Council Chamber, with the Economic and Social Council Chamber and the “old” Conference Room 2 serving as overflow rooms.

In attendance were a large number of the victims' family members, as well as senior officials, led by the

Secretary-General, representatives of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) and of Member States, and staff members.

The programme included remarks by the Secretary-General, the President of the General Assembly and the Permanent Representative of Haiti to the United Nations.

Well-known Haitian singer Emeline gave a musical performance and the Permanent Representative of Cape Verde to the United Nations read his own poem about Haiti.

While lack of space did not allow for representatives of the media to be present in the Trusteeship Council Chamber, television crews and photographers were able to cover the event from its booths, located on the third floor of the “old” Conference Building. The event was webcast live on the UN's General Public Webcast website (<http://www.un.org/webcast>).

In the afternoon, DPKO dedicated two conference rooms on its floors (now in the DC1 building), one to Hédi Annabi, the other to Luiz da Costa, in the presence of their respective families, DPKO staff and several former UN people.

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon's remarks at the memorial were as follows:

Excellencies,
Dear Colleagues,
Dear friends,
Above all, dear families of those to whom we sadly bid farewell:

Let us begin by thanking the families and friends who have travelled far to be with us. To those who could not be here, please know that our hearts are with you.

We are joined by duty stations around the world – the men and women of our proud United Nations. Among them are the members of our United Nations Mission in Haiti, who have carried on despite their pain and hardship. I thank Mr. Edmond Mulet and his courageous staff who are working tirelessly – day in, day out – in MINUSTAH (the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti). I highly commend (you) and I am deeply grateful to all of you.

Today, we commemorate the single greatest loss the United Nations has suffered in its history. We remember 101 lives of consequence. We honour 101 unique paths that joined in Haiti to write the larger story of the United Nations. These women and men were our own. They were family. They came to Haiti from all corners of the world, from all walks of life. Yet, they shared a common conviction – a belief in a better future for the people of Haiti, and a common resolve to help them build it.

Now those 101 paths come together one final time, here in this chamber, through us – families and friends, colleagues and loved ones. The world knew them as trusted diplomats, dedicated humanitarians and conscientious professionals. They were doctors and drivers, police officers and policy advisers, soldiers and lawyers – each contributing to the mission, each in his or her own way.

To us they were even more. We knew them, very personally. We knew their smiles, their songs, their dreams. Now we cannot forget the last e-mail, the last conversation, the last meal together, the last *au revoir*. Their words echo: “Don't worry about me. This is where I need to be.”

At the United Nations, we don't simply share office space; we share a passion for a better world. So it is no

surprise that many of these 101 paths criss-crossed the globe through the years. In Cambodia and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Eritrea and Timor-Leste, Kosovo and Sierra Leone. Whether they came to Haiti, or came from Haiti, they knew that hope shines in even the darkest corners. And so they chased the flame. Wherever they went, they carried the light of hope. And as they fulfilled their mission in Haiti, they illuminated a profound truth: Earthquakes are a force of nature, but people move the world.

Today, our hearts are heavy with a burden almost too difficult to bear. Yet perhaps like you, it is gratitude that I feel most of all. Gratitude to the international community for the spontaneous, whole-hearted and unstinting support in the face of this tragedy. Gratitude to the rescue teams, aid workers, governments and NGOs (Non-Governmental Organization) that rallied to our side, determined to help Haiti to recover and, in time, to “build back better.” Gratitude to the people of Haiti, for their strength, resilience and faith – the faith of human spirit, the spirit that burns in all of us today.

I commend and appreciate the leadership of President [René] Preval and his Government and his people. Gratitude fills this chamber – profound thanks that our world and our lives were touched by the grace and nobility of these 101 UN heroes.

Ladies and gentlemen,

In life, we are measured by the company we keep. To those here today, let us know that this is our measure. This is the company we keep. To those we have lost, let us say: we will never forget you. We will carry on your work. In a moment we will read out their names, the roll call of highest honour. Look at their pictures. Look into their eyes. Remember their smiles and their dreams. Together we stand, in honour of the victims, and in deepest sympathy for the bereaved.

May I now ask you to rise and join me in a minute of silence. Thank you.

Editor's Note: Above information adapted from UN Website, on which a list of UN System Staff members known to have died as a result of the earthquake is posted: <<http://www.un.org/en/>>.

AFICS GOVERNING BOARD REMEMBERS FALLEN UN COLLEAGUES

By Louise Laheurte, Denis Beissel, Christine Smith-Lemarchand,
Richard Nottidge, and Federico Riesco

At its monthly meeting in January, the Governing Board of AFICS (NY) set aside its regular agenda to pay tribute to the men and women of the United Nations who had lost their lives in the earthquake that had devastated Haiti a few days earlier. We went through the traditional minute of silence and standard statements of sorrow, but immediately sensed that these formalities, usually intended for the record, fell far short of what we needed to express our feelings about the colleagues we had lost. Spontaneously, we began to exchange personal memories of men and women we had known and admired who had given their lives in the service of ideals we all shared, perhaps subconsciously trying to fix as indelibly as possible in our minds a living portrait of these fallen friends. Though in this way we were honouring all the UN staff members who died in the Haitian disaster, most of our recollections were of two men with whom, because of their long careers, many of us had often crossed paths during our years of active service: **Hédi Annabi** and **Luiz da Costa**, the Head and Deputy Head of the UN Stabilization Mission in Haiti, who were at work in the MINUSTAH headquarters building when it collapsed around them on that fateful afternoon of 12 January 2010.



Hédi Annabi has been described by Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon as "a true citizen of the world." Former Chef de Cabinet Iqbal Riza has highlighted his commitment to the goals set by the UN's decision-making authorities, saying his "formi-

dable intellect and political experience were deployed towards the aims set by numerous General Assembly and Security Council resolutions in political and peacekeeping missions around the world." Indeed, when Annabi joined the UN in 1981 he brought with him a solid academic background in political science and international relations, and the experience of a distinguished career in the Foreign Service of his native Tunisia. Within the Organization, he played a key role in facilitating a political settlement in Cambodia in the early 1990s, and later supervised peacekeeping missions

in Africa, before becoming deputy head of DPKO in 1997, an ASG position he held until his appointment to Haiti in 2007.

Necessarily, our memories were of the more private Hédi, the man who was described by *The Independent* as "one of those exceptional people who work quietly and determinedly in the background, unknown to all but their United Nations staff." Far from flamboyant, he was of slight build and, with his shiny bald head and round-rimmed glasses, had the rather stern look of a "headmaster," as he was nicknamed by some. He would spend hours behind his desk correcting English or French drafts that were rarely up to his high standards in either substance or form. He was invariably among the first to arrive at work and the last to leave, rushing to catch the 10:00 or 11:00 pm train, carrying wads of cables and drafts to read on the way to his home in Westchester, where he would tend to his ailing wife, Danielle. He would tease aides who left the office at 7:00 pm for taking "half a day off."

Hédi's discreet ("cryptic," some said) appearance belied two of his essential qualities: an uncommonly dry wit and an equally uncommon ability to present complex situations in the clearest, most articulate manner, making him a favourite interlocutor to the media and government representatives alike. He could be blunt without being offensive, in particular towards governments demanding "the impossible" from the UN and reluctant to fund it, and ironic without being cynical, never really despairing of the huge task at hand. To James Traub of *The New York Times*, "Hédi always sounded as if he were rolling a rock uphill, and he more or less knew that it would roll back downhill again. But then he would just trudge down and start pushing again. Everything was impossible; everything was necessary." Those qualities, combined with an encyclopaedic memory and an amazing grasp of every issue and aspect of any peacekeeping mission and situation on the ground, made him an ideal mentor to those who served under his wing. While desk officers are the purported "experts" on their assigned missions, Hédi could match and, more often than not, outmatch them. A group of female aides ("Hédi's harem," as was fondly joked) held periodic

lunches or dinners with him in the UN vicinity and delighted in his droll anecdotes and musings over the state of the world. We were to some degree comforted to learn at our Board meeting that Hédi was happy in MINUSTAH, telling everyone he should have left New York much sooner to work in the field, and that he was much appreciated by the Haitian people.

Many of us had been to the funeral service held for **Luiz da Costa** in Sleepy Hollow, NY, on January 23. We had been gratified by the throng of mourners that filled the large church from wall to wall, and had admired the grace and courage shown by his widow Cristina and their daughters on the podium. Bowing our heads as the flag-draped casket went by, we had thought of the dapper



20-year old who joined the Organization on a temporary assignment in 1969 and went on to become, in the words of the Secretary-General, a "legend" of UN peacekeeping operations, whose "legacy lives on in the thousands that

serve under the blue flag in every corner of the globe."

Someone recalled at our meeting how amused and well-impressed the young recruit had been when a personnel officer had told him that the long string of names on his passport, inherited from his illustrious Brazilian ancestors, would be shortened in the UN to simply Luiz da Costa. From the very beginning of his career in the Organization, in the Department of Conference Services, Luiz was always liked and respected by his co-workers, who saw him as a "doer," resourceful and imaginative, striving to get ahead and at the same time supportive of those around him. Luiz graduated from New York University in 1978 with an M.A. in International Business and Political Science. A year later the first G-to-P exam was given and he took it in five categories; he was successful in all and aced it in several. Colleagues could already sense that the tall and energetic Brazilian with the "Admiral look" (he had a preference for double-breasted navy blazers) was a rising star, destined for greater heights. He was soon showing his professionalism and dedication as a recruitment officer in OHRM, where he rapidly mastered policies and procedures that were new to him and seldom needed guidance or instructions.

In the early 1990s UN peacekeeping activities exploded in size, complexity and cost, catching the Secretariat unprepared. The managers involved had to make adjust-

ments and make them fast. In particular, they needed someone bright, exceptionally hard-working and sensible to head the human resources component of the administrative and logistics support functions. That was when they discovered Luiz da Costa. His selection as Chief of the Personnel Management and Support Service of DPKO in 1992 was an exceptionally felicitous decision: he was an able colleague, invariably courteous and sure to produce mature responses to the daily crises. Many remember him taking his trademark two shopping bags of office papers home late every night, and coming back in the morning with work ready to be distributed, and his daily overseas work calls to the Middle East and Africa already completed (by cell phone on his way to the office). Luiz also had the advantage of a cosmopolitan curiosity, an interest in constantly expanding his knowledge and experience that benefited his responsiveness to a greater variety of issues.

Luiz remained engaged in peacekeeping management for the rest of his career, at ever higher levels of responsibility at UNHQ, in Kosovo, Liberia and finally Haiti. With his big smile and strong handshake, he struck his colleagues as personable and easygoing, but he was at the same time very businesslike. By combining his impressive managerial skills with an innate warmth and charisma, he came to be, as the Secretary-General noted, a "mentor to generations of staff ... he knew them, he knew their families and his heart was always open to their story and to help them." One member of the AFICS Governing Board said of Luiz: "Without presuming anything about a heavenly afterlife, I think the memories of his fine qualities represent a kind of afterlife for him on this earth as well."

Hédi Annabi and Luiz da Costa could not have been more different in appearance and style, but they were perfectly complementary. Their combined effort in Haiti, supported by an able and dedicated team, was bearing fruit, although they were under no illusion over the immense task that remained to be accomplished. What they shared was a steadfast dedication to the cause and principles of the United Nations, and an unwavering and infectious enthusiasm in the service of the Organization. They were the "old guard" and at the same time the "avant-garde" of peacekeeping, spearheading missions and ushering and inspiring a new generation of peacekeepers into the 21st century.

Editor's Note: The authors of the above tribute are all members of the AFICS (NY) Governing Board.

SECRETARY-GENERAL VISITS CHILE TO DISCUSS RESPONSE TO DESTRUCTIVE EARTHQUAKE

Up to \$10 Million in UN Funds to Support Relief and Recovery

Arriving in Santiago, Chile on Friday, 5 March, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon was greeted by Chilean Foreign Minister Mariano Fernández and the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), Alicia Bárcena. Soon after landing, he expressed his deep sympathy as well as solidarity with and support for the people and Government of Chile following the 8.8 magnitude earthquake that struck early on 27 February.

That afternoon, the Secretary-General visited the headquarters of ECLAC, which had been damaged by the earthquake. He addressed a town hall meeting of ECLAC, telling staff members how much he appreciated their dedication and hard work.

Later, the S-G met with (outgoing) Chilean President Michelle Bachelet at the Presidential Palace – La Moneda – to discuss the country’s immediate and long-term needs, after which they joined the United Nations delegation and Government ministers and the heads of United Nations agencies in Santiago to further discuss the response to the earthquake.

In the joint press conference held by the Secretary-General and President Bachelet that ensued, Mr. Ban reiterated the Organization’s support for Chile and announced the release of up to \$10 million in United Nations funds to support relief and recovery efforts in the country. He said a joint working group between United Nations agencies and the Chilean Government would be formed to define the priority areas in which to allocate the funds, which will be released from the Central Emergency Response Fund, particularly in health, emergency shelters, education and water and sanitation. He also praised President Bachelet’s leadership in dealing with the effects of the earthquake.

In the late afternoon, the Secretary-General took part in the launch of “A Roof for Chile Foundation” (in Spanish: *Un Techo Para Chile*) with President-elect Sebastian Pinera. There, he encouraged the youth who

would take part in the Foundation’s programme in their efforts. Activities will centre on youth volunteering to help build sturdy, temporary shelter for people left homeless by the earthquake.

On Friday night, the Secretary-General joined President Bachelet in the launch of a 24-hour telethon to raise \$30 million for victims of the earthquake.

On Saturday, the Secretary-General travelled on a Chilean Air Force plane to Concepción, the second largest city in Chile, over 300 miles south of Santiago and one of the areas most affected by the earthquake, to see first-hand the destruction it had caused. Accompanied by a small group of senior officials from the United Nations and the Chilean Government – including Foreign Minister Mariano Fernández, Ms. Bárcena, and the United Nations Resident Coordinator in Chile, Enrique Ganuza – the Secretary-General received a briefing on the earthquake from Chilean army officers at the Joint Headquarters for the Disaster Area in BioBio Region, and then visited parts of Concepción most affected by the earthquake.

In a press encounter at a location known locally as “ground zero” due to the scale of destruction, the S-G said he had a fuller picture of the extent of the damage and destruction caused by the earthquake, which would help when he reported back to the General Assembly for discussions on how the United Nations could best help.

On his return to Santiago, the Secretary-General had a working lunch with the heads of the 15 United Nations agencies operating in Chile. He followed that with a meeting with Chile’s incoming Foreign Minister, Alfredo Moreno; incoming Minister of Finance, Felipe Larrain Bacanun; and Minister for Planning, Felipe Kast Sommerhoff. He also met with the Director-General of the International Labour Organization, Juan Somavia, and former President Ricardo Lagos.

(Adapted from UN Website)

AFICS (NY) CELEBRATES 40TH ANNIVERSARY

HISTORY AND EVOLUTION

THE FOUNDING OF AFICS

By

Margaret K. Bruce

Former President of AFICS

Honorary Member, Governing Board

In June 2010 we will celebrate both the 65th anniversary of the United Nations and the 40th anniversary of the Association of Former International Civil Servants (AFICS). It was on 26 June 1945, at its founding Conference in San Francisco that the United Nations adopted and signed the Charter. It was on 10 June 1970 that AFICS was formally constituted and the Association is proud to proclaim its own anniversary 40 years later. Anniversaries evoke nostalgic memories for all of us who are now retired and have served the United Nations family in different capacities and at different times during the past 65 years. This article describes the origin and early development of our Association.

In 1970 AFICS began with some 200 members. It now has some 3700, including honorary members, drawn from all United Nations organizations and scattered over a number of countries, although the majority live in various parts of the United States and Canada. The Association is known as AFICS (New York) because its headquarters are in New York. Our Association and its sister Association in Geneva (AAFI/AFICS {Geneva}) are the two largest formal groups of retired staff. AAFI/AFICS (Geneva) began as a group of former ILO staff members and was founded in 1940. In 1956 it expanded into an Association of individuals drawn from all UN organizations based mainly in Geneva.

The founding of AFICS was initiated by three "wise men" who had all been actively concerned with pension matters. They were: Alfred Landau, who was still a serving UN staff member at the time, and a participants' representative on the UN Joint Staff Pension Board and its Standing Committee; Frank Weisl, an Assistant Director General of FAO who had been an active member of the Pension Board and had served as its Chair; and Henri Reymond, who had represented the ILO Executive Heads on the Standing Committee, and was also a life member of AAFI/AFICS (Geneva).

While serving as the participants' representative on the Pension Board Alfred Landau had been struck by the

fact that governments, executive heads and the active staff were all represented on the Pension Board but no provision was made for hearing the views of the pensioners themselves. In a letter he addressed to his two colleagues on 2 October 1969 he drew attention to the existence of AAFI/AFICS (Geneva), which had a sizeable number of members in Europe but few from the Western Hemisphere, especially the United States. He believed that the establishment of a similar organization of retirees, or of a New York chapter of the Geneva Association, might be helpful in pressing for pensioners' concerns to be aired at the Pension Board.

His two colleagues agreed, and on 16 October 1969 they met and drew up a list of possible signatories for an appeal to be addressed to all pensioners in the USA and Canada whose addresses were available. Twenty persons signed the appeal, which was issued on 16 December 1969. Their names are familiar to some of us, since they served subsequently as Presidents or active members of the AFICS Governing Board: A.I. Friedgut, Arthur Gagliotti, Anne Goder, Ernest Grigg, Andre Hadamard, Christine Hellin, Maria L. Huntington, Alfred Landau, Adolf Lande, Jacques Lippitz, Eve Nolan, Marguerite Nowak, Henri Reymond, Nina Rubinstein, Maria Sa Pereira, Marc Schreiber, Szeming Sze, Abraham Tamir, Frank Weisl and G.N.T. Widdrington.



Special 40th Anniversary Article

Two hundred positive replies were received to the appeal, making it possible to go ahead and found the Association. In May 1970 a small group drawn from the 20 signatories to the appeal drafted provisional by-laws under which the constituent Assembly was convened. It met on 10 June 1970 and elected Frank Weisl Chair of its meeting. It also elected the members of the first Governing Board, adopted the by-laws and considered suggestions concerning future activities of the Association.

Twelve members constituted the first Governing Board: Arthur Gagliotti, Anne Goder, Ernest Grigg, Andre Hadamard, George Janecek, Adolph Lande, Jacques Lippitz, Herni Reymond, Egon Schwelb, Szeming Sze, Pinghou Wang and Frank Weisl. They held their first meeting on 16 June 1970 and elected a Chair, Frank Weisl; two Vice Chairs, Ernest Grigg and Herni Reymond; a Secretary and Deputy Secretary, Anne Goder and Jacques Lippitz; and a Treasurer and Deputy Treasurer, George Janecek and Egon Schwelb. They were the first officers to serve on the Governing Board and to direct the Association's work on behalf of an ever-increasing membership. Sadly, few if any of these original founders of AFICS are still with us today.

When AFICS was formally constituted AAFI/AFICS (Geneva) was of the view that the New York Association should be a chapter of that much older Geneva-based Association and there was much acrimonious debate on this issue. Fortunately these differences

no longer exist and friendly exchange visits back and forth have been organized in recent years.

Since its founding in 1970 AFICS has expanded both in numbers and in the scope of its activities. The Governing Board grew from the initial 12 to "not more than 21" and, as a result of new by-laws approved on 18 May 1995, to 23 members. Pension matters and after-service health insurance, including long-term care, continue to be priority areas of concern. In recent years the Association has broadened its activities substantially, and this is reflected in the numerous committees that have been established and the different kinds of programmes they have organized (e.g.: Pension, Insurance, Aging, Legal, Membership, NGO Relations and Information, Outreach, Social and Finance). An important development in recent years was the establishment of the AFICS Charities Foundation in 1997. Its mission includes support for humanitarian causes such as the recent disastrous Earthquake in Haiti, as well as assistance to qualified individuals facing temporary hardships.

Other organizations of retirees were also formed during the early years, beginning with FAO in Rome and, somewhat later, UNESCO in Paris. It was agreed that, in order to safeguard their rights, there was a need for close cooperation among pensioners from all UN organizations. As a result the Federation of Associations of Former International Civil Servants (FAFICS) was born in 1975.

PRESIDENTS OF AFICS (New York)

Our Association has had 15 presidents since its establishment in 1970 (see pages 12 and 13). All held key posts in the United Nations or its agencies where they served. From the early crusading days, they helped shape policy in the various worldwide activities in which the Organization became involved. Each one came from a different field of endeavour yet they all shared a common goal: promoting the success of the UN. As a result of this leadership, AFICS has gained strength since its founding four decades ago. We are most appreciative of their many valuable contributions.

AFICS (NY) PRESIDENTS



FRANK WEISEL
1970 - 1972



GEORGE J. JANECEK
1972 - 1974



HENRY REYMOND
1974 - 1976



DR. SZEMING SZE
1976 - 1977



MYER COHEN
1977 - 1981



JOHN McDIARMID
1981 - 1982



MARGARET K. BRUCE
1982 - 1985



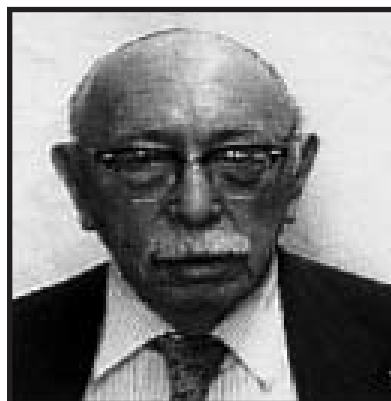
ALFRED LANDAU
1985 - 1988



Special 40th Anniversary Article



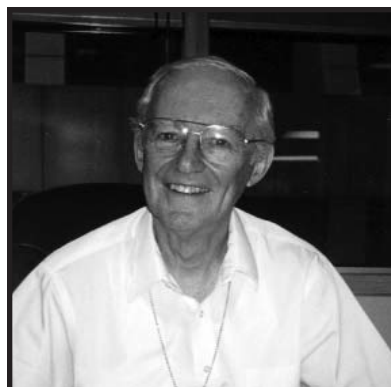
PATRICIA K. TSIEN
1988 - 1991



A. F. FRIEDGUT
1991 - 1994



GEORGE S. SADDLER
1994 - 2001



O. RICHARD NOTTIDGE
2001 - 2003



**ANDRES CASTELLANOS DEL
CORRAL**
2003 - 2008



EDWARD OMOTOSO
2008 -

WHY AFICS

By Federico Riesco
Member of the AFICS Governing Board

You retired a couple of years ago and you've been quietly going about your business, literally or figuratively, not looking back very often on your days in the United Nations system. Naturally, you've been following any events concerning the UN that have been reported in the media, and you've been distressed when you've heard or read misconceptions and misrepresentations or unfair criticism of the Organization. But when you've wanted to discuss the latest events, you haven't found anybody with enough interest in these issues that is so close to you.

Then one day, by design or accident, you find yourself at a UN-connected event, or in some other international gathering, in a room where many of those present are speaking English with a distinct foreign accent or using other languages, and you experience a surprising reaction – you feel you've come home. Or you may be at a party or reception where you spot people you knew from the UN. Even if they were not colleagues you worked with closely, you are delighted to see them again. Now you can discuss your concerns with people who understand exactly what you mean. It's like meeting relatives you haven't seen in a long time, but with whom you share a family bond and common childhood memories.

It is then that you realize how much you've missed the UN experience, the enriching diversity of the Organization's unique environment, the play of cultures, not clashing or competing, but brought together by a common purpose.

For many of us, particularly those for whom joining the UN system meant leaving our countries and cultures, the Organization became a surrogate home country and an extended family. It gave us a particular identity and, wherever we were, it afforded us a certain measure of support and protection. On retirement, we abruptly lost all that. In fact, the UN has been criticized for making the separation of retiring staff members so complete and drastic. Some governments and organizations have a gradual phasing out process, or offer retirees unpaid functions as advisors or task-force members so that they can feel they are still part of the system, and also to continue making use of their experience. But not the UN:

the separation, even if expected, is sudden and total. However, we don't have to feel dropped from the family and pushed out of our home, because there's AFICS.

AFICS is an extension of the environment that surrounded us in the UN system. It is an association of people who, notwithstanding a wide variety of opinions and a wealth of cultural diversity, continue to share the basic values that led us all into the UN system to begin with. AFICS helps us maintain our UN identity and offers us avenues to stay engaged in UN endeavours. It formally links the retiree community to the UN system, and represents its interests wherever they may be at stake. It also provides a support structure that offers advice or assistance to retirees on a host of practical issues, from pensions to health insurance to access to UN facilities.

The UN is different things to different people. According to where we are in the Secretariat or in the system, we can see it as a humanitarian field operation, a peace-keeping force, a political mediation mechanism, a centre for economic and social research and planning, or a multilingual conference facility. So it is with AFICS: we can go to it for social interaction, to continue our involvement in the UN-system activities to which we devoted our so-called active years, or in search of in-depth information on issues being dealt with by the system. We can also go to AFICS for some of that protection we felt the UN provided. Granted, AFICS can't issue a laissez-passer or request a G-4 visa, but it can get you a flu shot, or expert advice on your income taxes, or discounts at New York restaurants.

Somewhat surprisingly, now and then we hear misapprehensions about AFICS. One of these is that it is too "local," that it does not reflect the geographic diversity of the UN system. Indeed, it is New York-based (and so is the UN Secretariat) and a good number of its members reside in the tri-state area (as do Secretariat staff members), but a very large number of its approximately 3,700 members live elsewhere, in the United States and on every continent except Antarctica. Although it cannot boast that its membership includes citizens of every UN Member State, with members in 103 countries it comes very close.



Special 40th Anniversary Article

Another false notion is that AFICS is "static" or even "backward-looking" – a group of aging folks that get together to reminisce about old times and complain about the present. We can certainly do that if we want to, and it might be fun sometimes, but it is not at all what AFICS is about. The first point in the AFICS mission statement is "to support and promote the purposes, principles and programmes of the UN System." As much as we may value our Organization's history, we cannot do that by sitting around and talking about Hunter College and Lake Success. AFICS has to be up to date on what the UN is doing and what its needs are. The activities of the AFICS Task Force on the UN Millennium Development Goals are an example of the Association's efforts in this regard. The Task Force acts as an advocate for the MDGs and a channel for retirees to contribute to their achievement.

Furthermore, by its very nature AFICS is a self-renewing organism. Its ranks are swelled every year by a new graduating class of retirees, and it constantly welcomes staff members who join long before retiring. As for the Governing Board, its renewal is ensured by the AFICS by-laws, which set term limits for Board members and provide for the election of six new members every year. As a result, the Board has a reasonable proportion of relatively recent retirees. Candidates for the seats that become vacant every year on the Board are selected through an independent nominating process in which the need for renewal is an important factor, as is the

search for skills and experience that will complement those already available within the AFICS leadership.

It might be of interest to note that while in its mission statement AFICS promises to "represent the interests of its members" within the UN system, it has always acted on behalf of all former international civil servants, whether or not they have signed up as members. Illustrating this are its consistent efforts to ensure that retirees have unimpeded and dignified access to UN Headquarters, even at times of heightened security. So all retirees benefit passively from the actions of AFICS; but members can make use actively of an array of opportunities offered through AFICS committees or its *Quarterly Bulletin*.

On the other hand, membership carries no significant obligations. AFICS does not impose any kind of burden on its members (apart from its very modest dues). It is there for us, to use as we see fit. We can just attend AFICS social events and have a good time, or we can join the Governing Board or one of its committees and get involved in activities of our choice. We can approach AFICS for advice or assistance, or we can offer, through it, to help fellow retirees in specific matters. By means of the *Bulletin*, we can invite colleagues to join us in a project, or find an endeavour where we would like to lend a hand. Above all, what AFICS means is that, whenever we want or need to be in touch, the family is still there.

AFICS: INITIATIVES, ACCOMPLISHMENTS, TRENDS

By Jane Weidlund

Honorary member, AFICS Governing Board

Candles shine brightly as we celebrate the 40th birthday of AFICS. Looking back, its record is very satisfying. It shows an association established by a core of UN retirees who wanted to continue promoting the organization that they had helped to create and in whose principles they believed, and who wanted to maintain the international perspective and collegiality they had enjoyed while they were staff members. They would – and could – never lose the convictions that they had held about the world's need for a global organization.

Since the Association's founding, the AFICS Governing

Board (originally 12 members), as per its By-Laws has grown to 23 members, of which 18 are elected and up to another five may be co-opted. Seven of the Board Members are Officers of the Board. In addition, there are Honorary Board Members, usually past Presidents and others who have made significant contributions to the Association, which now number seven. They, as well as Chairs and Co-Chairs of Standing Committees and the Charities Foundation are allowed to attend Governing Board meetings, without the right to vote. The Board has elected as its President, six Europeans, three North Americans, two Asians, one Latin American

and one African, who is our current President. Originally the Board, like the AFICS membership, consisted of a majority of former staff of the United Nations.

Membership of the Association is open to former staff members and officials of the United Nations and its subsidiary programmes, funds, institutes and other entities, the specialised agencies, the International Atomic Energy Agency and other bodies of the UN system. Present staff members and officials of any of these bodies who wish to join in anticipation of retirement are eligible to do so, as are former experts and consultants in the UN system. The surviving spouse of a member or associate member may also join. The diversity and growth in AFICS membership – currently some 3700 – has meant a widening of cultural, racial and skill profiles among the members, thus affording broader opportunities for activities.

As the Association outgrew its first two tiny offices, larger space was obtained and computers were added. The *Quarterly Bulletin*, the main link between Headquarters and members from 103 countries and many states in the U.S. was improved, with photographs and a two-colour cover now brightening its appearance. A dedicated office staff of three part-time retirees supports the Association's officers, elected by the Governing Board. In addition, some 130 volunteers do everything from serving on committees, designing layouts for notices and brochures and stuffing envelopes to planning and conducting seminars and representing the Association and its membership at meetings of the UN Joint Staff Pension Board and the UN Health and Life Insurance Committee.

As the Association matured, it adopted a mission statement, printed on the cover of each issue of the *Bulletin*. It sets forth the goals of the Association, which are met by an increasing range and number of activities and services to members. Many new initiatives have been taken and trends indicate a strong future.

Below, progress in each area is summarized beneath the mission statement goal (in bold) that it is helping to achieve:

“ ... support and promote the purposes, principles and programmes of the UN System ... ”

NGO Committee members represent AFICS and, as requested, FAFICS at meetings dealing with subjects of

concern to our membership (development, women, aging, population growth) and report via oral or written accounts to Governing Board meetings and through articles in the *Bulletin* and written summaries to FAFICS for circulation to sister associations. For example, AFICS was represented at such major worldwide meetings as the Nairobi conference on the advancement of women, its successor meeting in Beijing and the Global Conference on Aging in Madrid, which Helen Geffen Roht, Chair of the AFICS Committee on Aging, and Committee member Virginia Hazzard attended and reported on to AFICS and FAFICS.

A task force on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), initiated by the former president of AFICS, Andrés Castellanos (now president of FAFICS) and welcomed by a former Secretary-General, draws members' attention to the MDG's eight goals (through articles in the *Bulletin*) and offers informational materials to members in the hope that they will disseminate them and promote these goals.

Over the years, a few individuals have been called back into UN service for short-term assignments in areas including legal matters, insurance, editing, translation, accounting, peacekeeping and conference services.

“ ... advise and assist former international civil servants and those about to separate from service ... ”

The Association's President and its Committee Chairpersons address the UN's pre-retirement seminars and distribute membership applications. In recent years a letter from the president inviting membership has been attached to the annual letter from the UNJSPF mailed by the Pension Fund to all of the estimated 7,700 retirees of the UN System residing in the United States.

AFICS has been able to ensure entitlement to pension for many members who have forgotten or neglected to complete the annual UNJSPF annual letter requiring their signature or thumb print. We regularly scan the list of delinquents and try to contact individuals named so that their pensions will not be stopped.

Advice to members is provided through seminars and workshops – usually attended by 100-200 persons – on subjects of interest to older people, including Long-Term Care insurance, Medicare and ASHI benefits. All such programmes are fully reported in the *Bulletin* for those unable to attend. Kits of informational material are usually distributed at the seminars and relevant



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handouts are often subsequently available from the AFICS office.

Advice and assistance is often given on a one-to-one basis as well, by letter, e-mail or telephone in response to requests; and in person to the many members who come to the AFICS office for help with questions regarding pensions, income taxes, insurance, housing, illness, death, finding lost colleagues and a myriad of other concerns. Our first job is to listen; then we refer the matter to an appropriate volunteer specialist within our membership, or to one of our six committees. Though much of the work is confidential, quiet, personal and unpublicized, it is real and effective. Printed materials are also provided to AFICS members on other subjects of interest to them. The initiative of Robert Smith, a former vice-president, in preparing a booklet setting forth U.S. Income Tax guidelines for AFICS members has proven to be of inestimable help to many of them, as well as to others to whom it is given free of charge on request, and whom we hope will join the Association. Bob kept the booklet up-to-date until his death last year at the age of 97.

The office also has lists of lawyers and tax preparers recommended by members, as well as valuable information on State Government offices providing services to the elderly and comprehensive data on local senior residences, assisted living facilities and nursing homes. (You can set up an appointment with a member of the Committee on Aging for help in using the files.)

There is also information on a whole range of volunteer opportunities, from helping to maintain Central Park or assisting NY Public Library visitors to find materials, to teaching children about tolerance and serving as senior advisors in particular areas of expertise.

“... represent the interests of its members within the (UN) System...”

Cooperative relationships and consultations with the UN Security Service have sorted out problems of access to Headquarters buildings during Summit and General Assembly sessions.

Similarly, cordial relationships with the UN Staff Union have proven mutually supportive.

Representation in the Pension Board and on the Health and Life Insurance Committee ensure that Association Members are informed of the latest developments.

“ ... foster social and personal relationships among members ... ”

The *Quarterly Bulletin* keeps members abreast of colleagues' activities and the AFICS Directory offers a good opportunity for travellers to locate friends and plan reunions. But it is the Social Committee's events, excursions, spring and fall luncheons and yearly reception following the annual assembly that attract the most enthusiasm and the largest number of participants. A boat trip up the Hudson; lunch at the Culinary Institute; behind-the-scenes tours of the offices of WNET Public Television and *The New York Times*; and a trip to Geneva by 10 AFICS members were popular outings. Twenty-five colleagues from AAFI/AFICS Geneva visited New York for a week and were entertained in the AFICS office during a morning reception. These are but a few of the memorable events of recent years. Other incentives to sociability are the discounts available to AFICS members at some 15 Manhattan restaurants offering a variety of international cuisines. Additionally, discounts are offered at a New York Hotel and two restaurants in the Isla Verde area of Puerto Rico.

“ ... promote members' well-being and encourage mutual support of individual members ... ”

AFICS arranges with the UN Health Service for members to receive the yearly influenza vaccinations, which is a boon to those most at risk of contracting the flu.

Another accomplishment of the Association resulted from the initiative of a hard-of-hearing member who worked with the then president and the Insurance Section to obtain Aetna's agreement to reimburse 50% of the cost of hearing aids.

The greatest concern for well-being has been demonstrated by the Committee on Aging whose popular seminars, mentioned above, dealt with serious subjects on the minds of those over 60 but nevertheless had the audience stretching and swaying in the aisles as participants performed the ritualistic movements of tai chi. At one of the seminars – on putting ones affairs and records

in order – a Personal Information Checklist was distributed (and subsequently published in the *Bulletin*). It is a concise listing of the type of facts one must have at hand and easily accessible, such as names, addresses and telephone numbers of doctors and dentists, hospital telephone numbers, insurance data, name and coordinates of lawyer with whom your will is filed, etc.

Along the same lines, Freddie Friedgut prepared a list of “Frequently asked Questions” outlining procedures to be followed by next of kin after the death of an AFICS member that was distributed by the Association.

The achievements of Ms. Diana Boernstein, Chair of the Legal Committee and the success of her cause deserve special mention: the righting of administrative wrongs against divorced spouses of staff members.

While this article cannot mention all the services, programmes and activities offered by AFICS, another initiative worth noting is its small lending library of books and materials written by or about AFICS members and other UN figures. It has been set up over the past five years by member Dawne Gautier, a librarian who retired from the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, and now contains some 200 books that members have written, edited or to which they have contributed. A four-part listing of titles available has appeared in the *Quarterly Bulletin*. One member donated books by the first Secretary-General, Trygve Lie, as well as by Dag Hammarskjöld and Count Folke Bernadotte. The number of books keeps growing and more such historical works would be a fine addition.

Finally, we should mention that AFICS activities go beyond those that are of benefit only to the Association’s members. For example, we have helped many fledging AFICS associations start up by sending

them copies of our By-laws, our application leaflet with its synopses of the work of our committees and copies of the *Bulletin*.

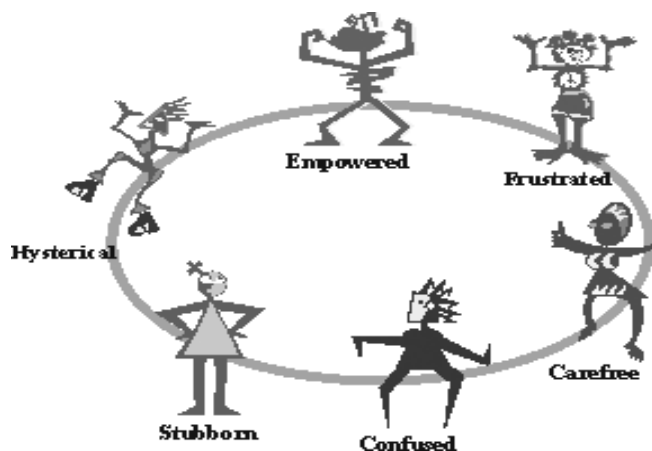
A few years ago our Committee on NGOS and Information initiated the idea of sponsoring a project in a developing country. Between 1993-1995, some \$5,000 was collected and given to “Trees for the Future,” an NGO which trains villagers in reforestation. As \$500 was enough to adopt a village and plant and maintain one tree, the AFICS contribution was able to sponsor several tree projects, in Belize, Cameroon and Honduras.

Another tree initiative was the planting of a tree in the UN garden on the occasion of the 50th Anniversary of the United Nations and the 25th Anniversary of AFICS, in May 1995.

Through our Charities Foundation we collected and dispatched funds for use by UNICEF in bringing relief to areas devastated by the unprecedented Tsunami that struck southeast Asia and African countries at the end of 2004 and continue to receive and dispatch funds for follow-up efforts in the wake of this disaster. In early 2010, the Foundation also provided a \$4,000 contribution for earthquake relief and rehabilitation in Haiti through UNICEF.

From all of these examples it is clear that AFICS has grown from its early beginnings 40 years ago into a professional association dedicated to carrying out its comprehensive mission – while at the same time, retaining a personal touch. Of the many discernable trends, **free services to members and inclusion within bodies of the UN** stand out and bear witness to your Association’s stature and the regard in which it is held.

**A Workshop
on
EMOTIONAL WELL-BEING**





Special 40th Anniversary Article

DISPELLING MISPERCEPTIONS

Despite our activities and accomplishments, some retirees – and retiring staff members – still have mistaken perceptions about AFICS. The principal ones, which we want to dispel, are:

MYTH: *AFICS is an elite group of former directors, an occasional USG, a few ASGs, and senior professionals; General Service personnel are not wanted.*

FACTS: **A retiree's former ranking as a UN staff member plays no role in AFICS. To us, a retiree is a retiree. The Association has singled out for recognition and award:**

- a former general service specialist in printing who has transformed AFICS's printed notices from ordinary/pedestrian/colourless flyers to professional and inviting announcements through the introduction of smart, colourful graphic and imaginative layouts. We salute and thank Fidel Keymolen.
- a retired security officer who served as co-chair of the membership committee and lent wisdom, elegance and faith in the UN to his volunteer efforts to bring more general service personnel into AFICS. We miss our departed friend (a "Bajun") John Osbourne.

MYTH: *Those who attend AFICS luncheons and receptions always mix with people they already know; newcomers feel unwelcome and left out.*

FACTS:

- The Social Committee always plans pre-luncheon time for meeting new people as well as seeing old friends.
- Receptions are always buffet style to encourage mixing.

MYTH: *AFICS is not welcoming.*

FACTS:

- What more can we do? We invite you to join one or more of our committees ... offer new ideas and suggestions ... volunteer to introduce people to one another at social events ... help new members realize how very welcome they are.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

NGO RELATIONS AND INFORMATION COMMITTEE 2009/2010

The Committee apprises the AFICS (NY) Governing Board of NGO and representation issues. At the behest of the Federation of Former International Civil Servants (FAFICS), which has NGO consultative status with ECOSOC, the Committee attempts to cover UN/NGO meetings where FAFICS-designated areas of interest are discussed: human rights, gender, aging, health, housing, economic and social development, environment and

peace. (See page 21.) It follows the sessions of the ECOSOC Committee on NGOs where FAFICS' Quadrennial reports are reviewed. Members participate in and/or follow proceedings of various Committees of the Conference on NGOs (CONGO) – gender, aging, human settlements, sustainable development, etc. Efforts are made to include FAFICS as a signatory to NGO joint statements to UN intergovernmental bodies,

as part of our advocacy activities in support of the United Nations. Such advocacy activities are reported in the FAFICS Quadrennial Reports to ECOSOC. The Committee is pleased to report that two such efforts were successful during the reporting period: FAFICS co-signed a joint statement to the 10th Session of the Human Rights Council General Segment on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, and co-signed a proposal to the UN CEDAW Committee General Recommendation on Older Women: Strengthening the Protection of the Rights of Older Women.

The Committee submitted several reports prepared by its members to the July FAFICS Council meeting in Vienna under the Council's item on advocacy. The Committee also fulfilled the focal point role assigned to AFICS (NY) by the FAFICS Bureau in presenting a paper to the Council at its Vienna meeting, summarizing the work carried out by FAFICS sister associations in support of the ideals and work of the UN system. The Committee is presently in the process of undertaking a similar task for the upcoming FAFICS Council meeting scheduled to be held in July in the UK.

At the behest of the Committee, FAFICS joined a campaign among NGOs to promote a proposal for a UN Convention for the Human Rights of Older Persons. A Committee member suggested wording to be included in the proposed convention that would highlight the elderly gaining equal employment and FAFICS submitted it and its letter of support to the organizers.

Thanks to a member active on gender issues, AFICS (NY) was invited during the annual meeting of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) to co-sponsor a parallel event with the CONGO CSW Subcommittee on Older Women and to honour the memory of our former colleague, Virginia Hazzard. The event, entitled "Older Women: 15 Years Later - Where Are We Now," was preceded by a tribute by AFICS' former President honouring Virginia's memory. (See page 26 .)

The Committee's relationship with the CSW Committee also provided an opportunity for FAFICS to nominate Margaret K. Bruce to serve on the Honorary Board of the Global Forum for Women: Beijing + 15, held two days prior to the opening of the CSW, pointing out, among other things, that she had collaborated in the drafting of the Universal Declaration on Human Rights, had a long history working for human rights and equality of women in and outside the UN, and had served as president of both AFICS and FAFICS.

One of the Committee's members continues to serve on the NGO/DPI Executive Committee, through election of the DPI NGOs. He has helped prepare the DPI NGO Annual Conferences, was a member of the nominating committee that proposed the candidate who will serve as Chair of the upcoming conference in Melbourne (August 30 - September 1) and has attended the town hall meeting with the representatives of the Australian government. He is a member of the DPI/NGO Communications Workshop Sub-Committee, which plans and organizes three all-day workshops for NGO representatives every year, the first held in late February and entitled "NGOs Responding to Crisis: Meeting New Challenges, the Case of Haiti." With a member from AFPNU/Mexico, he represented FAFICS at the September 2009 Mexico DPI NGO Annual Conference on the theme of disarmament and reported thereon to FAFICS and AFICS (NY). It is hoped that FAFICS and AFICS (NY) will be represented in Melbourne.

The Committee member who sits on the CONGO Committee on Human Settlements is helping to organize NGO participation at the 5th session of the World Urban Forum, to be held in Rio de Janeiro from 19 – 26 March 2010. She reports regularly on the workings of that committee; she also follows the work of the CONGO Committee on Sustainable Development.

The Committee is pleased to announce that a new Co-Chair was elected in February 2010 and is already well engaged in the work of the Committee, having replaced the co-chair elected in February 2009 who, unfortunately, was unable to continue serving. She represented the Committee at the AFICS (NY) annual presentation to the UN Pre-retirement Seminar held on 3 March 2010.

Thanks to the efforts of the new Co-chair, the ongoing work of the Committee for the coming year will include the finalization of its formal terms of reference; the conduct of a survey among AFICS members to collect information about their interest and/or involvement in promoting the work of the United Nations system; updating the list of AFICS members who would like to be mentors; updating the list of AFICS members who would like to be called upon for speaking engagements on behalf of DPI; and contacting OHRM and the funds and programmes in New York to see whether they would be interested in using AFICS members to serve in volunteering positions.

Lola Costa-Esnard, Co- Chair
Frances Zainoeddin, Co-Chair

UN/NGO MEETINGS COVERED BY NGO RELATIONS AND INFORMATION COMMITTEE

Reports on Days of Observance:

World Aids Day - Keep the Promise: Stop AIDS – The Search for a Vaccine
International Day of Older People
World Water Day – Coping with Water Scarcity
United Nations Day

Commission on Sustainable Development

Commission on the Status of Women and parallel meetings:

- *CSW Committee's parallel event on "Older Women: 15 Years Later - Where Are We Now"*
- *Meeting on the impact of UN's Capital Master Plan on Civil Society*
- *Global UNFPA-NGO consultations in preparation for the CSW*
- *UNIFEM-organized parallel event on Women's Governance held in conjunction with the CSW*
- *ECOSOC-sponsored seminar on "engaging philanthropy to promote gender equality and women's empowerment" (strengthening partnerships of the United Nations with the business community)*
- *The Impact of the United Nations Capital Master Plan On Civil Society during the CSW*
- *International Association of Women and Radio and TV (IAWRT) organized side event on "Women and the Media"*
- *ECLAC briefing "Progress & challenges faced by women since Beijing +15 – the road ahead for the Caribbean and Latin America towards the eleventh session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean (Brasilia , July 2010)*

DPI/NGO Annual Conference (Mexico City)

ECOSOC Standing Committee on NGOs (2009)

ECOSOC Standing Committee on NGOs (2010)

Subcommittee on Environment and Climate Change

DPI briefing on Global Action to Seal the Deal on a New Climate Change Agenda

Urbanization & Migration: the Impact on Aging populations (Congo Committee on Aging & Migration)

Workshop on Global Impact of Migration on Older Women (Sub-committee on Older Women and Migration)

First HIV-Tuberculosis Global Leaders' Forum

Gender Perspectives on Global Treaty Negotiations

DPI/NGO Communications Workshop Sub-Committee on "NGOs Responding to Crisis: Meeting New Challenges, The case of Haiti."

Subcommittee on Environment and Climate Change: "The Real Wealth of Nations: From Global Warming to Global Partnerships"

DPI Briefing-Water for Healthy World

SOCIAL COMMITTEE

2009-2010

The Social Committee organized its traditional bi-annual lunches, which are always well attended and continue to attract an increasing number of participants. On 19 November 2009 Association members and their guests enjoyed the Fall Luncheon with a marvellous "Spirit Cruise" on the Hudson River around New York's historic harbour, enjoying a grand buffet, dancing to D.J. music and listening to singing waiters.

The End-of-Winter Luncheon took place on 24 March 2010 at the lovely Destino Italian Restaurant where we enjoyed a unique dining experience with a focus on traditional southern Italian cuisine.

Barbara Linardo, Co-Chairperson

THE CHARITIES FOUNDATION OF AFICS (NY)

Officers: President: Dede Emerson; 1st Vice President: Edward Omotoso; 2nd Vice-President: Fernando Astete; Secretary: Christine Smith-Lemarchand; Deputy Secretary: Louise Laheurte; Treasurer, a.i.: Leon Hosang

Other Foundation Directors: Andrés Castellanos del Corral; Arturo Chavez-J.; Edna M. Christie; Suzan Habachy; Barbara T. Linardo; Irmgard Parker; Margaret Miles; O. Richard Nottidge; Diana Boernstein

Report of the President for 2009-2010

The Annual Meeting of the Foundation was held on 3 December 2009 at which time its Board of Directors elected the officers and members listed above.

Report of the Assistance Review Committee

During 2009, the Assistance Review Committee received eight requests for emergency assistance. Four fell outside the Committee's purview and four resulted in the expenditure of \$5,500. For the four cases falling outside the Committee's guidelines, other funding sources were suggested, and advice was given.

For the four that resulted in the giving of grants, two were health and medication related, and two involved

As indicated in the report of the Assistance Review Committee (see below), eight requests for assistance were received of which four were within the Guidelines of the Committee. The Committee approved \$5,500 in grants.

In response to the 2009 Annual appeal, over \$8,588 was received in contributions, all of which were most welcome and appreciated.

Thanks to Suzan Habachy and Louise Laheurte, Co-Chairs of the Assistance Review Committee, as well of other members of the Committee and Board of Directors for their participation in the work of the Foundation.

Dede Emerson, President

critical economic hardship. In the latter two cases, the Charities Foundation provided funds to help two former staff members meet rent and other emergency expenses resulting from the current economic downturn.

Early in 2010, the Assistance Review committee, with the full approval of the Board of the Foundation, sent a donation of \$4,000 for relief work in Haiti. This gift was made through UNICEF.

Suzan S. Habachy, Chairwoman

CALLS FROM *ACTIVEHEALTH* MANAGEMENT

Many AFICS members who participate in UN After Service Health Insurance plans have received literature from a company named *ACTIVEHEALTH* Management, which pairs you with a registered nurse you can talk to on the phone who they say will work with you one-on-one and be your personal health coach. Participating nurses are said to be experts in helping people with many different health conditions, including high blood pressure, heart problems, diabetes and asthma. There is no extra charge for this service, which is among your medical benefits.

However, some AFICS Members have complained about receiving "unwanted calls" from *ACTIVEHEALTH* Management nurses. If you get such calls and want to have them stopped, you may make a toll-free call to 1-800-778-8351.

MEMBERS' FORUM

INVOLVING RETIREES IN UN SYSTEM DECISION MAKING

By
David A. Waugh

In my circles of UN and UN Agency retirees, most are disappointed that the System has cast them out and shows little interest in serious outreach. It adds to feelings of isolation and bewilderment that their education, skills and experience are no longer of any value. Ana Marie Gudz (Bulletin, Vol. 40, No. 3, July 2009) correctly assessed the dilemma of adjusting to our new realities as unwanted retirees.

This unhappy situation has been on my mind for some time and luckily there is a means for coming to grips with it, and not only in the singular interest of retirees to remain connected. The System itself could benefit enormously from the intellectual inputs of its far-flung network of former officials. New technologies are available that make this doable, namely the highly developed hardware and software making up the Internet and the World Wide Web. Wikipedia, the online multilingual encyclopaedia, is a well known example of new knowledge created by means of inputs from a diverse population. Similarly, one could imagine a UN System manager posing a problem or issue to both serving and former staff and inviting comments and/or suggestions. The larger range of informed inputs would enable clearer thinking, resulting in improved decision making.

The framework for connecting with retirees and creating possibilities for them to continue to interact with UN System management and staff rests on knowledge management principles, mainly the concept of collective intelligence, which is universally thought to be superior to individual and team intelligence. As a consequence, the brain drain experienced by the UN System when staff retires need not be so damaging. It seems to me that two factors operate here; one of them is the dedication

of active staff to making the world a better place in which to live, which does not stop at retirement. The other is that the wealth of the UN System is equally measured in the extremely high accumulation of staff intellectual resources in education, skills, and experience. Retirees can continue to be irreplaceable assets as well as on-going members of the UN family.

It goes without saying that there initially would be resistance to adding to managers' already heavy workloads but that is easily remedied by incentivizing the added responsibilities. Managers know that what gets done is that which is assigned, measured and rewarded.

Fortunately, there are others already making use of widely dispersed workforces through technological interface, thus good examples abound. This would be somewhat different in that it would involve volunteers. Also, it would be a new initiative for the UN System – actively engaging retirees. As is often said, “We are all in this together.”

David A. Waugh, Ph. D. (formerly ILO) is Secretary of the Washington D.C. Chapter of AFICS (New York). January 26, 2010

ACTIVITIES IN RETIREMENT

As we celebrate the 40th Anniversary of AFICS (NY) this year, we are pleased to receive accounts from AFICS (NY) members of their own or fellow retirees' after-UN service activities so that we can share their experiences with our readers. Here is a recent submission:

FROM SECURITY SERVICE TO SUBSTITUTE TEACHER

Since retiring from the Security Service, in which I served over 32 years, I have been working part time in a field that always held my interest, namely teaching. Being a substitute teacher in the New York City School system gives me an opportunity to impart some of the knowledge gained from years overhearing conversations among top leaders from around the world to the students in my classes. I continue to be amazed at the interest young people show when you tell them some-

thing that you personally witnessed and then begin to incorporate it into the lesson. I enjoy the part-time nature of the work, and also play golf with several UN recent retirees during the warmer months. I believe these activities give me an opportunity to remain somewhat "with it" as the young people today say – something I think is very important to all of us in retirement.

Steve Taylor

ADVOCATES' CORNER

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY – "EQUAL RIGHTS, EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES AND PROGRESS FOR ALL"

Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon's Remarks to Commission on the Status of Women, 03 March 2010

Madame Chair, Maria Hinojosa, Your Excellency Ms. Meng Xiaosi, (Head of Chinese delegation to CSW), H. E. Mr. Audun Lysbakken, Minister of Gender Equality of Norway, Deputy Secretary-General, Ms. Asha-Rose Migiro, Excellencies, Distinguished panellists and guests, Ladies and gentlemen,

It is a great pleasure to welcome you all to the United Nations on this happy occasion of International Women's Day. I am happy to be with you to celebrate this International Women's Day – to celebrate women – to declare that we stand for equal rights, equal opportunities and progress for all.

As a son and a husband, as a father and grandfather to girls, it is my honour. And as Secretary-General of the United Nations, it is my duty; gender equality and women's empowerment are fundamental to the very identity of the United Nations.

Fifteen years ago at the Fourth World Conference on Women, Governments adopted the landmark Beijing Declaration. It sent a clear message to women and girls around the world that equality and opportunity are inalienable rights.

Women's empowerment is also an economic and social imperative. Until women and girls are liberated from poverty and injustice, all our goals – peace, security, sustainable development – stand in jeopardy.

In the 15 years since Beijing, we have seen many examples of progress. A growing number of countries have policies and legislation that support gender equality and reproductive health. Most girls now receive an education, particularly at primary level. Women are now more likely to run businesses and be given loans. Women are also now more likely to participate in government – women like our Deputy Secretary-General, Dr. Migiro. Women like Maria Paixão, who is vice-president of Timor-Leste's parliament where one-third of lawmakers are now female. In Rwanda, the proportion is even higher, and it is paying back in legislation that is helping further empower women.

For each of these gains, civil society has played a major role. The international women's movement has become truly global. Women everywhere are mobilizing for equality and empowerment – and succeeding. Wherever voices are raised against tyranny and injustice, you can be sure that women are among them.

So, as we look back on Beijing, we have much reason to be proud; proud, but not complacent. Injustice and discrimination against women persists everywhere. In its worst form it manifests as violence. Up to 70 per cent of women experience violence in their lifetime. Most commonly they are attacked by an intimate partner. We sometimes hear it said that such practices are a matter of culture. They are not. They are abuses and they are criminal and they deny women's fundamental rights.

So too do early and forced marriage, so-called 'honour killing,' sexual abuse and trafficking. My "UNiTE to End Violence against Women" campaign and the recently launched Network of Men Leaders are striving to put an end to these abuses. The United Nations is also acting ever more firmly against sexual violence in conflict.

This October will mark 10 years since the Security Council adopted resolution 1325 on women and peace and security. Further resolutions have firmly established that sexual violence in conflict can constitute war crimes, crimes against humanity or acts of genocide. Last month my new special representative on the matter, Ms. Margot Wallström, took up her duties to help countries to translate this awareness into action. We must also address the broader questions of equality and empowerment. Maternal mortality remains unacceptably high. Too many women still lack access to family planning. Gender stereotyping and discrimination remain common in all cultures and communities. Wherever we look – and especially if we look through the lens of poverty – we see that women still bear the greatest burdens. For this International Women's Day, let us look critically at the achievements of the past 15 years. Let us build on what has worked, and correct what has not.

We at the United Nations must lead by example. This is why I have made women's empowerment a priority. We hope soon to have a dynamic entity for gender equality and women's empowerment within the United Nations system. That would provide more coherent programming and a stronger voice for women. I urge the General Assembly to create this new entity without delay by adopting a resolution. Thank you very much for your strong support. I hope that the Ambassadors who are present will have heard this strong support.

Let me tell you about what I am doing as Secretary-General, how I am leading by example. We have more women in senior United Nations posts than at any time in the history of this Organization. Overall, the number

of women in senior posts – at the rank of Deputy-Secretary-General, Under-Secretary-General, and Assistant Secretary-General – has increased by 40 per cent during the last three years. But this is still not enough. I take seriously the General Assembly mandate for gender parity throughout the United Nations system. I am particularly aware that women are under-represented among my special representatives – at the professional levels – and in our peacekeeping operations.

Experience has shown that women peacekeepers can perform the same roles, to the same standards and under the same difficult conditions as their male counterparts. And in many cases, women are better-placed. Whether interviewing victims of sexual violence working in women's prisons, assisting female ex-combatants reintegrate into civilian life, or mentoring female police cadets, women personnel have a clear advantage. They can help empower women to rebuild their war-torn countries and act as role models. In Liberia, seeing an all-female police unit from India has boosted interest among Liberian women in joining their own police service. There are many such stories of how the United Nations is working to empower women.

I recall when I visited Burkina Faso in West Africa. I saw classic scenes of rural African life – girls and women grinding grain in a hollow log – back-breaking and time-consuming work made necessary because most of Burkina's 8,000 rural villages lack electricity. Enter the United Nations. Over the past five years, we have introduced a revolutionary piece of technology to 200 of these villages. It is called the Multi-Functional Platform. You can always trust the United Nations to come up with exciting names like this! Essentially, it's a simple engine – old technology. It runs on diesel or bio-fuel. Parts for maintaining it are available in any small town. It can pump water and it grinds grain and crushes nuts and seeds in minutes, saving hours of labour. It creates time for women, time for school, or visiting a clinic, for doing other work, and even for leisure for women and girls. And it creates revenue. This machine can generate electricity, run welding equipment and charge batteries for cellular phones and computers. The women who run it – the women who own it – get business training, they earn an income and gain a new standing in the community. They are empowered. Each platform for change costs less than \$10,000. With initiatives such as these, we can improve the lives of hundreds of millions of women and girls. We can empower women, reduce poverty and help meet the Millennium Development Goals. As we look forward to this year's Millennium

Development Goal Summit meeting in September, let us collect and spread these stories.

And let us hold foremost in our minds that gender equality and women's empowerment are integral to all our

goals. For this International Women's Day, let us pledge our renewed determination for a future of equal rights, equal opportunities and progress for all.

(Adapted from UN Website)

OLDER WOMEN: 15 YEARS LATER – WHERE ARE WE NOW?

**Sponsored by: The NGO Committee on Aging-NY, The NGO CSW Subcommittee on Older Women, and The NGO Committee on the Family-NY
Co-sponsored by AFICS (NY) and several other NGOs**

Fifteen years after the International Women's Conference in Beijing, the situation of older women and widows continues to have a low profile at the United Nations. While the Subcommittee on Older Women has achieved much in raising awareness about the issues these groups face, a great deal of work remains to be done to protect the rights of older women worldwide.

On 4 March, a programme, held during the deliberations of The Commission on the Status of Women, opened with a tribute to **Virginia Hazzard**, a former staff member of UNICEF and member of the UN NGO CSW Subcommittee on older women and the Association of Former International Civil Servants in New York (AFICS {NY}). The tribute was offered by **Andrés Castellanos del Corral**, former President of (AFICS {NY}) and currently President of the Federation of Associations of Former International Civil Servants (FAFICS). He spoke of Virginia's long service on the AFICS Governing Board and as an Honorary Member of the Board active in the AFICS Committees on NGO Relations and Information, and on Aging.

Recalling Virginia's determination, energy, persistence and ability to mobilize others to support the causes she championed, Mr. Castellanos said that she had been a tireless advocate for a number of UN goals, especially the rights of older persons and gender equality, right up until her death on 23 October 2007 (at the age of 89). He spoke with great admiration of how much Virginia had been able to accomplish, in calling attention to the needs of older women in particular, mentioning that she is especially remembered for her role in organizing the NGO Forums at the International Women's Conferences in Beijing and Nairobi, and for her work at the UN Conference on Human Settlements in Vancouver, as well as for her involvement in the CONGO Subcommittee on Aging and for having pushed for the creation of a sub-committee on Elderly Women. If all Virginia's

contributions were collected, he noted – the marks she made during her service in Morocco, China, Kenya, Ethiopia, and with AARP, the Executive Committee of UN/DPI and in countless committees – it would be necessary to have a major container to accommodate them. Even after her death, he said, Virginia was instrumental in working towards progress for older women, having left a bequest in her will for the NGO Committee on Aging.

He recognized how fortunate AFICS (NY) had been in having several remarkable women members who had made contributions for the rights of the elderly and gender equality, not only Virginia with her extraordinary qualities, but also others of similar calibre and dedication, including the late Virginia Sauerwein, a towering defender of the worth of NGOs, Helen Geffen-Roth and Margaret Bruce (both present among the audience), Patricia Tsien and Jane Weidlund. In closing, Mr. Castellanos urged that all energy available within the NGO community be channelled towards achieving the adoption of a Convention on the Rights of the Aging, as the best tribute that could be offered in Virginia's Hazzard's memory.

The first speaker was **Ferrous Ara Begum**, a member of the UN CEDAW Committee and of the National Council for Women's Development, Bangladesh. She spoke resolutely about older women's lack of access to health care, education and mechanisms to enforce their legal rights, such as their right to own property. Many

elderly women live in poor health, isolation and loneliness and, in some countries, are subject to discriminatory inheritance laws and practices that prohibit their equal and adequate access to wealth and resources.

As startling examples, Ms. Begum cited traditions mandating that a woman wear unattractive clothes upon her husband's death, widows being accused of stealing property, and those infected with HIV/AIDS being socially isolated, stigmatized and having their property seized.

The next speaker was **Margaret Owen**, a UK barrister and human rights lawyer and Founder and Director of Widows for Peace through Democracy (WPD) who has worked for widows' right for over 15 years. She spoke of the discrimination against widows of all ages, which persists in many parts of the world where they receive no respect and suffer from "non-income poverty," though their needs are not even mentioned in the Beijing Strategies for Action.

In developed countries, she said, the poverty of elderly widows is well known in terms of their lack of income and health care. Often they are subject to abuse and other forms of violence due to divorce and family fragmentation. In Europe, among immigrant groups, widows often do not receive remittances from workers abroad, even though they need these for basic living expenses, and may become financially dependent on their children.

Even worse, is the situation of widows in developing countries, especially in Africa and South Asia where they are victimized by various customs and traditions. As a result, they often die a social death, as in Nepal where a widow may become an outcast, held responsible for the death of her husband; or in Africa, where a widow may be forced to have sexual relations with her dead husband's male relatives, have no right to inherit his land or property and/or be seen as a witch and stoned to death (especially if her husband died of AIDS). Even an already married little girl seven years of age whose husband dies may be blamed for his death and forced to live the rest of her life as an outcast.

Older women remain invisible, she continued, though because of women's longer life expectancy they constitute a majority of the older population. The negative social images attached to aging devalue the elderly, who are ignored and seen as insignificant.

The UN acknowledges the urgent need to adopt a convention on older women, especially with the dramatic increase of widowhood due to armed conflict and the growing number of people retiring within the Organization itself. However, ten years after the setting of the Millennium Development Goals, there are still few women in decision-making positions. Older women remain absent in the very programmes, targets and indicators designed to protect their rights.

Anne Emerman, M.S.W., of the Columbia University School of Social Work spoke on behalf of disabled older persons. She has worked as a psychiatric social worker and supervisor at Bellevue Hospital, served as Director of the Mayor's Office for People with Disabilities in New York City's Mayor Dinkins' Administration, and Senior Staff to NYC council Committee on Mental Health, Mental Retardation, Alcoholism, Drug Abuse and Disability Services. Having contracted polio at the age of seven, Ms. Emerman spent 14 years in acute and chronic care institutions at a time when there were few or no facilities for people using wheelchairs, though the disabled have always been workers, taxpayers, wives and mothers. A life-long activist for the civil rights of people with disabilities, she has fought for quality health and home care, accessible building codes and affordable housing, and access to education, jobs, mass transportation and polling sites. Ms. Emerman continues to work in many coalitions on behalf of people with disabilities for legislative, regulatory, policy and budget initiatives; then organizes to force governments to comply with their own laws.

Women are in the forefront of fighting for policy issues with regard to equal rights for the disabled, she said. With today's budget cuts, they are joined by students and union members. At stake are selecting priorities, given today's limited budgets and resources. Even as she spoke, she said, NY Metropolitan Transit Authority budget cuts were being protested and older people and women were among those fighting.

In the 1960s, inspired by the Civil Rights movement and the institution of Medicare and Medicaid, things began to change. Women continued to fight for civil rights and finally, in 1978, legislation was passed prohibiting discrimination against the disabled and other groups in any services getting government funding. Then came the requirement that children with disabilities receive education in the least restricted environment possible.

Those advocating for the disabled teamed up with the

Eastern Paralyzed Veterans Association to further the cause, as veterans were already entitled to better health care, housing and other benefits. Together progress was made to overcome lack of access to buildings and gain ability to take public transport. Working together led to empowerment.

Respondent, **Susan Li-Shu Chang**, President of the Garden of Mercy Foundation in Taiwan gave some examples of positive action. She had worked on education to prevent HIV/AIDS, among other issues, and is a member of the Standing Committee of The Church and Society Committee of PCT and of Taiwan News Radio Corporation.

Saying that she prefers the word “senior” to “older” she mentioned that Taiwan is concerned with providing

security for seniors – personal, environmental and political. There is health insurance and aid for those with a disability. Seniors get benefits and the disabled can access facilities free-of-charge. Even in terms of jobs, out of 50 workers hired, one person with a disability must be employed. People over 65 can ride buses for free.

Questions and answers

The Q & A session dealt largely with the need for choices for older people. It was felt that government funding was required to enable seniors and people with disabilities to remain with their families, in their communities or in senior centres with their peer groups as some preferred. In many places, quality of care is of great concern, with neglect and abuse widespread.

UN AT WORK WORLDWIDE

THOUSANDS OF REFUGEES RECEIVE ACCESS TO COMPUTERS AND SKILLS TRAINING

By L. Pedersen, UNHCR

With the generous support of the Motorola Foundation, thousands of refugees will receive access to computer technology and skills training in Rwanda and Bangladesh.

The Community Technology Access (CTA) project, launched by the UN's Refugee Agency in 2009, aims to provide refugees with computer literacy training and internet access for education and job training purposes. It will empower refugees and provide them with the skills to become managers of information technology facilities, maintenance and repair technicians, and teachers. The centres also provide classes for school-

children, entrepreneurship and business training, and career counselling.

With the help of the Motorola Foundation, more than 2,000 refugees will benefit from the programme in 2010.

UNHCR is now working to launch new CTA centres in nine other countries around the world, offering tens of thousands of refugees access to new opportunities to build a better tomorrow.

(Adapted from USA for UNHCR news online)

HEALTHY LIVING

HAVING A “SENIOR MOMENT”?

By Dr. Sudershan Narula

Our brain works a lot like a computer; it puts information it judges to be important into "files." When we remember something, we pull up a file. But memory doesn't always work perfectly. As we grow older, it may take longer to retrieve those files, something we jokingly call having a "senior moment."

If our brains were just like computers, we'd simply add a chip to upgrade our memory. But the human brain is far more complex than even the most advanced machine, so improving human memory requires slightly more effort.

To begin with, it's helpful to understand *how* we remember.

1. What is memory?

Simply put, memory is the mental activity of recalling information that we have learned or experienced. Memory can be **short-term, recent or long-term.**

- **Short-term memory or immediate memory**

Short-term memory is the ability to remember a small amount of information over a few seconds, just long enough to use it. Like a phone number you look up in the phone book.

Such memory is not affected much by age. At any age, people can usually store five to seven pieces of information in short-term memory.

- **Recent memory**

Recent memory is the ability to remember information from minutes, hours, or days ago and it declines with age. Older people have more difficulty recalling information from recent memory. Under normal conditions, recent memory changes gradually over time, abrupt changes in memory capacity may be a result of other factors.

- **Long-term memory or remote memory**

Long-term memory is the ability to remember things that happened years ago, and something we focused on enough times to commit to long-term memory. We may not even know we put it in there until something triggers our memory of it. This memory involves the information we make an effort to retain, because it is personally meaningful to us, because we need it, or because it made an emotional impression on us. Another type of long-term memory is **procedural memory**, which involves skills and routines we perform so often that they do not require conscious recall.

- **Stages of memory foundation and maintenance**

There are three stages that the brain goes through in forming and retaining memories. These stages are acquisition, when new information enters our brain, consolidation, when we have concentrated well enough to encode new information in our brain, and retrieval, when we need to recall information.

2. Memory and aging

It is true that some of us get more forgetful as we age. It may take us longer, for example, to learn new things, remember familiar names and words, or find our glasses or keys. These are usually signs of mild forgetfulness, not serious memory problems.

Our **short-term and long-term** memories aren't usually affected by aging. The factual information we have accumulated over the years remains largely intact, as does procedural memory. We can make and recall new long-term memories; the process just takes a little longer.

When people say, "My memory isn't what it used to be" they are most likely referring to their **recent memory** as it declines with age. For example, we may forget names of people we have met today or where we set our keys.

If you forget where you put your keys, you probably just need to get better organized. However, if you forget what keys are used for or how to unlock doors, you should see a doctor as these problems may be a sign of Alzheimer's – a brain disease that causes a slow decline in memory, thinking and reasoning skills.

- **Why aging brains experience these changes?**
 - a. **The hippocampus**, a small structure deep in our brain that enables us to learn, is especially vulnerable to age-related deterioration.
 - b. We experience a relative **loss of nerve cells** as we age, affecting the activity of neurotransmitters and their receptors.
 - c. An older person often experiences **decreased blood flow to the brain**.

However, in healthy older adults, these changes represent more of a slowing in the ability to absorb, store, and retrieve new information, not a loss.

Of course, some older adults do develop more significant problems with memory that are the result of diseases such as Alzheimer's or that result from a stroke; injury; poor nutrition; other physiological issues; or emotional problems.

3. Tips for memory improvements

There is some data to suggest that a robust social network and a lifetime of intellectual curiosity and mental stimulation may support brain health, as may a low-fat diet rich in fruits and vegetables.

- **Keep your mind active**
 - a. Participate in activities that require you to think & learn, such as playing bridge or attending a lecture – **improves short-term memory**.
 - b. Engage in intellectual pursuits (reading, problem solving, etc.) helps memory retention – thus **improves recent memory**.
 - c. Socialize with friends and family, write

your memoirs, reading old letters and clippings you've saved and asking why you saved these – **improves long term memory**.

Memory skills to enhance learning and to help make remembering easier

- a. **Concentrate:** Your teachers were right: If you want to recall something later, pay attention, and try to reduce distractions and minimize interferences.
- b. **Slow down:** If you're rushing, you may not be focused or paying full attention.
- c. **Tailor information acquisition to your learning style:** Most people are visual learners; they learn best by reading or otherwise seeing what it is they have to know. But some are auditory learners who learn better by listening.
- d. **Organize:** Keep important items in a designated place that is visible and easily accessed.
- e. **Write it down:** Carry a notepad and calendar, and write down important things.
- f. **Repeat it:** Repetition improves recall. Try repeating names when meeting new people, or repeating facts when you're learning new information.
- g. **Visualize it:** Associating a visual image with something you want to remember can improve recall.

Healthy habits to improve memory

- **Regular exercise**
 - Increases oxygen to your brain and reduces the risk for disorders that lead to memory loss, such as diabetes and cardiovascular disease.
- **Managing stress**
 - Stress makes it difficult to concentrate.
- **Good sleep habits**
 - Sleep is necessary for memory consolidation.
- **Not smoking**
 - Smoking increases the risk of vascular disorders affecting brain blood supply.

Nutrition and Memory improvement

You probably know already that a diet based on fruits,

vegetables, whole grains, and “healthy” fats will provide lots of health benefits, but such a diet can also improve memory.

Whenever I write an article where I advise others, I always try to see if I am practicing what I preach. Here I must say, I am very fond of doing Sudoku and of cross-words—though I prefer Sudoku more since I am better with numbers than words. I also continue to coach and mentor others, which keeps me on my toes. I exercise regularly: walking, but also swimming. I also enjoy a glass of wine and eat plenty of fruits and vegetables. I

make daily “to do” lists and happily cross off at night all that I have done during the day. I am also aware that I am a visual learner; I remember well what I see in writing.

Doing all the above keeps your memory sharp while exercising and eating healthfully has the added benefit of keeping you physically healthy.

Editor’s note: Look for a follow-up article by Dr. Narula – on Alzheimer’s Disease – in our July issue.

THE LATEST WRINKLE

SINGLES ADVERTS FOR THE AGE CHALLENGED

FOXY LADY: Sexy, fashion-conscious blue-haired beauty, 80's, slim, 5'4" (used to be 5'6"), searching for sharp-looking, sharp-dressing companion. Matching white shoes and belt a plus.

LONG-TERM COMMITMENT: Recent widow who has just buried fourth husband, looking for someone to round out a six-unit plot. Dizziness, fainting, shortness of breath not a problem.

SERENITY NOW: I am into solitude, long walks, sunrises, the ocean, yoga and meditation. If you are the silent type, let's get together, take our hearing aids out and enjoy quiet times.

WINNING SMILE: Active grandmother with original teeth seeks dedicated flosser to share rare steaks, corn on the cob and caramel candy.

BEATLES OR STONES? I still like to rock, still like to cruise in my Camaro on Saturday nights and still like to play the guitar. If you were a groovy chick, or are now a groovy hen, let's get together and listen to my eight-track tapes.

MEMORIES: I can usually remember Monday through Thursday. If you can remember Friday, Saturday and Sunday, let's put our two heads together.

MINT CONDITION: Male, 1932, high mileage, good condition, some hair, many new parts including hip, knee, cornea, valves. Isn't in running condition, but walks well.

(From an unknown Internet Source)

WORLDWIDE REUNIONS

USA

FLORIDA CHAPTER CELEBRATES THIRD ANNIVERSARY

On 5 December, 2009, at 4:30 pm, one of the private halls of **Seasons 52 Restaurant** at Sand Lake Road, near Universal Studios, Orlando, was already bustling with members of the Florida Chapter of AFICS (NY). The event was the celebration of the third anniversary of the Florida Chapter.

After socializing for about 15 minutes, all 21 members present took their seats in the cosy hall of the newly opened branch of the above-mentioned restaurant.

Madan Arora requested Arumugam Thavarajah (popularly known as Roger) to read the following Mission Statement of the Florida Chapter of AFICS (NY), which was adopted three years ago:

“AFICS (FL) would serve as an active branch of AFICS (NY). While fully supporting the mission of AFICS (NY), AFICS (FL) would focus on the local needs of its members. ‘The mission of AFICS (NY) is to support and promote the purposes, principles and programmes of the UN System; to advise and assist former international civil servants and those about to separate from service; to represent the interests of its members within the System; to foster social and personal relationships among members, to promote their well-being and to encourage mutual support of individual members.’”

Upon conclusion of the reading, all members stood up, applauded, raised their glasses and said “LONG LIVE UNITED NATIONS; LONG LIVE AFICS.”

A draft calendar of events for 2010 was circulated to all members, seeking their suggestions. After reviewing the feedback, the following calendar for 2010 was established:

24 April: Italian Lunch

12 June: Japanese or Middle Eastern Lunch

04 September: Mexican or Caribbean Lunch

11 December: Anniversary Lunch or Dinner:

Disney, Universal or other Resort

Everyone enjoyed the dinner, which each individual ordered from a wide variety offered by the à la carte menu.

Madan Arora cautioned the members regarding the growing hacking of emails.

The celebration ended at 7.00pm with Terry Taylor passing a VOTE OF THANKS to all members of the Florida Chapter of AFICS (NY).

Every member of AFICS (NY) is requested to mark the above dates in his or her 2010 calendar, and to attend the event with family and friends. For further information, please contact Madan Arora by email: marora.afics@yahoo.com

CANADA

Invitation

UN/CAFICS/AFICS luncheons are held in June and December of each year. Anyone wishing to attend is invited to contact us for details:

Evelyn & Gerry Nye, 201-1501 Richmond Avenue, Victoria, B.C., Canada V8R 4P7
1-250-370-2108 ~ gerrynye@shaw.ca

We look forward to meeting you here in the Victoria region,
Vancouver Island, British Columbia, Canada

OBITUARIES

BETTY CLEMENS-TESLENKO

Betty Clemens-Teslenko was a verbatim reporter who served as a member of the UN Secretariat from the date of its founding in San Francisco in 1945. She passed away on 14 June 2009. She was a UN “Mohican,” initially known by her maiden name Betty Clemens, until she married Nicolas Teslenko, her late husband, who was a French interpreter on the UN staff.

The story of how Betty was hired to work at the UN founding Conference is itself interesting and worth recording. During World War II she had taken a job as a United Airlines flight attendant. One of the passengers on a flight to San Francisco that she was servicing in this capacity told her that he was on his way to that city to help organize the UN conference. He was interested in her background as a verbatim reporter and urged her to apply for a vacancy at the conference, which she did. Apparently Betty never regretted that decision – and never lost her enthusiasm for the ideals of the United Nations.

Betty attended many important UN meetings as a verbatim reporter over the years, including years after she had formally retired. She continued to maintain her zeal for being a witness to history in the making, serving at numerous meetings held in New York, Geneva and Paris.

In June 1995 San Francisco was the scene of a host of activities celebrating the 50th anniversary of the UN, and these are recorded in a special anniversary issue of the AFICS (NY) Bulletin. On this occasion Betty Clemens-Teslenko and my late husband, William James Bruce, presented a letter to Secretary-General Boutros Boutros Ghali “on behalf of all men and women who have served the United Nations during the past 50 years.” The letter states: “We seek to convey to the public at large – men and women throughout the world – our pride and satisfaction and our sense of privilege at having worked for the United Nations.” The full text of the letter, a photograph of its presentation, and the Secretary-General’s reply are reproduced in that AFICS (NY) special anniversary issue.

There is much that can be said about Betty Clemens-Teslenko by those of us who knew her as a friend and colleague. She had a delightful personality, a great sense of humour, and she was a gracious hostess. She was always ready to extend a helping hand to any who worked for her. Sir Brian Urquhart recently commented to me that she was a wonderful person and a model international civil servant.

Margaret K. Bruce

FAROUK MAWLAWI

Mr. Farouk Mawlawi passed away in Beirut, Lebanon on 26 January 2010. He was surrounded by family and friends, the way he always was during his lifetime.

Mr. Mawlawi’s long and impressive career(s) began in the diplomatic service of the League of Arab States, in various capacities, after his graduation from the American University of Beirut. He notably held the positions of Arab Information Centre Director in Cairo, Egypt, and in New York. In these roles he was instrumental in shaping public information activities of the League, particularly in the United States, where he held

countless lectures, interviews and seminars.

In 1975, Mr. Mawlawi joined the UN Secretariat as Director of the UN Information Centre in Baghdad. Later, in 1982, he moved to UN Headquarters where he held various positions in the Department of Public Information, including those of Chief of Policy and Programmes; spokesman of the President of the General Assembly; Chief of NGO and Institutional relations; and Special Advisor to the Secretary-General and NGO’s Liaison Coordinator. He also served as spokesman for the UN Operation in Somalia.

Following his retirement in 1996, Farouk continued to work on behalf of the international community by co-founding and heading the Association of Foreign International Civil Servants, a representative body for former UN employees living in Lebanon, Syria and Jordan. There he was able to offer his judgment and views on international events by writing articles and commentaries for circulation in a variety of countries around the world.

This gentle and polished man was admired by so many. His wide experience and profound intellect came to be

greatly appreciated among the NGO community. Today it is hard to accept the fact that his engaging smile will not shine any more among those whose paths crossed his.

To his wife Najwa and his daughters Serene, Nadine and Maya we offer our heartfelt condolences, sure in the knowledge that their sense of loss is shared by many, many friends and colleagues all around the world.

H. Rifai

NORMA SZEP

Norma Szep passed away peacefully on 15 February 2010 at the age of 78 at her home in New York City. Although she had been in failing health for the last few years, she maintained her sharp wit and marvelous sense of humor.

Norma spent most of her long UN career in the finance area, ending as the Salary Administrative Assistant in the Salaries and Allowances Section when she retired in January 1992. She was considered a key person in that Section. Before the computer age, Norma daily used her calculator to arrive at the data for each and every salary

at duty stations worldwide. Norma also volunteered with the UN Federal Credit Union, serving as a member of the Board of Directors.

She will always be remembered as being fiercely devoted to her parents and brother, Larry, all of whom predeceased her. She was a loyal friend and at her graveside service in New Jersey family and friends smiled while exchanging the many memories of this remarkable lady who touched us all so deeply.

Judith Coleman

KERALAYAMA P. THAMPI

Mr. Keralavarma P. Thampi, a retired UN staff member, died in Chennai, India, on 26 December 2009.

Mr. Thampi served the Organization in various capacities from 1951 to 1977. At the time of his retirement in 1977, he was Director of the Administrative Management Service (AMS) in the Department of

Administration and Management at UN Headquarters in New York. He also served as Chief of the Division of Administration of ECAFE (forerunner of ESCAP) in Bangkok from 1959 to 1962.

Siva Thampi
(Mr. K. P. Thampi's son)

IN MEMORIAM

The United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund has furnished AFICS (NY) with the following information, covering the period 1 December 2009 to 28 February 2010, concerning the passing of former staff members and their surviving spouses. We extend our deepest sympathy to the families and friends of the deceased.

UNITED NATIONS FAMILY

ECLAC

Bernal, Hector	08.11.2009
Marzullo, Carmen	18.12.2009
Mota, Vivian	05.01.2010
Mullen, Joseph William	11.11.2009
Rojas, Alberto	27.11.2009

UNECA

Alemu, Tadesse	01.10.2009
Getachew, Abegaz	27.07.2009
Meherit, T.	Unknown
Nxumalo, James	04.09.2009

UNECWA

Orkan-Lecki, Krzysztof	25.11.2009
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UNESCAP

Amritmahal, Govind R.	21.01.2010
Chupongsas, Pranai	03.01.2010
Kamayana, I. Gde	09.10.2009
Rodsawan, Korn	20.12.2009
Vorathitkul, Orasa	17.01.2010

UN/HQ

Andersen, Knud	13.01.2010
Beeftink, F.G.	25.01.2010
* Bretton, H.	07.11.2009
Calatayud, Rosario	11.12.2009
Chang, S.	22.10.2009
Claxton, Vijaya	23.12.2009
El Bawab, Sayed	08.09.2009
Fernandez-Diego, Manuel	10.01.2010
* Flexner, Elizabeth Ann	30.12.2009
Gallagher, John Sill	31.12.2009
Henriquez, Pedro	04.12.2009
Hyde, Luther Willis	01.01.2010
Jelenc, Danica	25.10.2009
Karwacki, J.	20.02.2010
Keppel, Grace	05.12.2009
* Koerber, C.E.	09.12.2009

Laroya, Hans Raj	27.11.2009
* Lavin, Kevin	03.12.2009
* Lee, W.	Unknown
Lenoble, M.E.	25.10.2009
* Lestelle, Patrice	29.12.2009
Menendez, Maria Luisa Giron	10.12.2009
Muteba, Ernest Nyembo Ilu	13.01.2010
Mutter, Rudolph	13.02.2010
Newlands, Kathleen	25.12.2009
* Nicol, Marjorie	Unknown
Nicolle, R.	04.01.2010
Nola, Francesco	08.05.2009
* Obrdlik, Sonia	?. 05.2009
Pearl, Anne	03.12.2009
* Perez-Ampudia, Josephina	28.01.2010
* Pet, Rogelio C.	14.01.2010
* Pires, Dimas A.	06.02.2010
Ranallo, Eleanor	24.11.2009
Rosner, Milton Stanley	20.11.2009
Rutigliano, Nicholas	27.11.2009
Saksena, Yogesh	21.01.2010
* Simone, P.L.	02.02.2010
* Slattery, James	24.01.2010
Stahel, Albert Walter	21.12.2009
* Stiponov, Linda	06.12.2009
* Szep, N.	16.02.2010
* Thampi, K.P.	26.12.2009
* Twardowski, C.B.	04.01.2010
* Wallis, Johanna	16.11.2009
* Williams, Alice	27.01.2010
Xie, Qimei	Unknown
Zarkow, C.L.	27.08.2009
Zuckerman, Elfriede	17.01.2010

UN/GENEVA

Adams, E.	16.11.2009
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Attafua, Akua	11.01.2009	U, Pe Than	20.01.2010
Benelmouffok, Ahmed	05.01.2010	Zakaria, Ahmat	28.10.2009
Chutivanich, Sumalee	21.11.2009		
Fournier, Marie-Therese	09.02.2010	UNEF	
Gawronski, Wiktor	03.01.2010	Gouda Noman, Layla N.	03.12.2009
Griffin, Thomas	Unknown		
Guy, Michel	01.02.2010	UNHCR	
Jahn, Roswitha	25.10.2009	Baruxakis, Lucien Thomas	10.03.2005
Marconi, Anne-Marie	05.11.2009		
Matthews, Ian	10.01.2010	UNIC	
Mazaud, H.P.	30.01.2010	Abili, Carol Onukwube	20.10.2009
Minardi, Vittorio	09.01.2010	Nyunt, Myint Daw	12.01.2010
Notel, Rudolf Paul	01.12.2009		
Rigoulet, J.	24.12.2009	UNICEF – HQ/INTL	
Rothwell White, Denise	22.01.2010	Chavez, Ketty	26.12.2009
Saenger, André	11.11.2009	Cybulski, Mirta	08.11.2009
Shergold, Michael	20.01.2010	Diarra, Emmanuel Dem	22.01.2010
Toh Siew Luan, Susan	26.11.2009	Doraiswami, Saraswathi	15.02.2010
Wall, Maria	19.12.2009	* Hanson, P.O.	30.01.2010
Woodfield, Anthony Wyckoff	15.01.2010	Jibril, Mohamud M.	10.12.2009
		Krassoievitch, Givka	23.12.2009
UNCHS		Le Hay, Guy Jean Emile	26.11.2009
Alvarez-Stewart, Duncan	30.12.2009	Roussel (Behar), Corinne	22.01.2010
UNDOF		UNICEF/LOCAL	
Batchone, Henriette	Unknown	Athibai, Sathani	20.11.2009
		Langballe, Thomas	30.10.2009
UNDP – HQ/INTL		Lawson, Akueson Adoukove	09.10.2009
* Hillis, Bruce Chester	16.01.2010	Mulika, Edward N.	11.10.2009
Jones-Eworo, Gilda Loriet	10.01.2010	Phiri, Ernest Kenneth	Unknown
Malcolm, Audrey	11.08.2005	Singa, Estevao	08.03.2009
* Patten, Anthony	28.11.2009		
* Satyapal, K.M.	16.01.2010	UNMIBH	
		Panic, Vidosav	??.01.2010
UNDP – LOCAL		UNON	
Abbasi, Narjes	19.11.2009	Zaimis, Evangelia	30.12.2009
Ahadji, Maurice	09.06.2009		
Al-Zoubi, Fadeah Salem	03.12.2009	UNOV	
Buvee, Tserenhand	26.12.2009	Neyner, Peter	14.01.2010
Hassan Mohamed, Asha	Unknown		
Henricot, Marcelle Marie	23.01.2010	UNRWA	
Ishaq, Sofia Yousif	24.11.2009	Huijssoon, Alberdina Wilbelmina	24.11.2009
Jolibois, A.	Unknown		
Makkar, Raghunath Dass	11.12.2009	UNTSO	
Muse, Mohamud Hussien Maal	Unknown	Kheir, Mariam	27.01.2010
Noman, Saeed Zaid	14.06.2009	Salah-Eddin, Taleb M.	27.01.2010
Rouzier, Philippe	Unknown		
Sammour, Souad	30.10.2009	UNU	
Sugarso, Theophilus	02.12.2009	Yokoyama, Sumiko	Unknown

SPECIALIZED AGENCIES

ILO

Baechtold, Gilda	30.01.2010
Boye, S.	20.12.2009
Boyer, G.	28.11.2009
Calderon, C.	Unknown
Chivers, H.	20.02.2010
Clement, Paul Jules Edoua	21.01.2010
Crosby, I.	21.01.2010
Crudele, Tommaso	14.02.2010
Curlat-Paisano, Carolta	06.01.2010
Demonsant, Marguerite Charlotte	04.12.2009
Drucker, Manuel	17.11.2008
Emery, Thierry Bernar	24.12.2009
Grieve, Beatrice Mary	02.11.2009
Halset, Evelyn Downey	27.12.2009
Hassmann, A.M.	17.12.2009
Hel, Bongo A.	19.01.2010
Holden, Robert	20.12.2009
Iles, John C.	23.11.2009
Langford, Norman	10.11.2009
Murray, Robert Cooper	13.01.2010
O'Callaghan, Michael	14.02.2010
Picard, J.	11.01.2010
Reus Candela, Magdalena	09.12.2009
Rodriguez, Saus	22.11.2009
Sulmoni, Mario	23.12.2009
Tchistotine, Alexandre	14.11.2009

FAO

Adamik, Karol J.	12.11.2009
Asliturk, Mustafa	06.06.2005
Azellini, L.D.	04.02.2010
Bartels, Johan	18.02.2010
Bhatti, Sakina	31.10.2009
Bojilov, Liliane	14.12.2009
Bommer, Dieter F.R.	28.01.2010
Cerqua, Claudia	Unknown
Crouail (Wasmer), Marie-Claude Jeanne	28.01.2010
Dasananda, Sala	07.01.2010
Davis, Gillian	15.02.2010
Day, T.H.	Unknown
Demarteaudeau Chauvin, Hélène M. Rosine	22.01.2010
Dino, P.	02.02.2010
El Sayed, M. Fauzi Zaki	04.09.2008
Esmail, Mohammad Ayoob	23.09.2009
Evans, Terence E.	14.02.2010
Fernandez-Damborenea, F.	02.02.2010
Ferri, Italo	08.01.2010

Franconi, Elio	29.01.2010
Green-Guglielmi, Sylvia	14.01.2010
Gulcur, Hatice	14.01.2010
Hamersley, Dorothy Pamela	05.01.2010
Hansen, Esther	25.12.2009
* Hills, Carter H.	08.12.2009
Ibba, Paola	06.12.2009
Kim, Myung Hee	15.11.2009
Kirschbaum, Alfred Anton	15.07.2009
Krebs, Clara	24.11.2009
Le Houerou, Henri Noel	20.12.2009
Lopez Santos, José Ney Hamilton	09.01.2010
Mercedes, C.J. Vda Miranda	30.10.2009
Merediz, Montero	Unknown
Murphy, Peter Thomas	07.06.2009
Nardelli-Martone, Anna Maria	11.02.2010
Ottaviani, Armando Lando	01.01.2010
Parewicz, Regina	14.03.2009
Parmeggiani, Vec	29.11.2009
Pelizza, V.	16.01.2010
Pierrard, Gaston Camille	25.11.2009
Pietrangeli, Gianfranco	22.02.2010
Prempeh, Duah Agyemang	25.12.2009
Punnahitananda, U.	25.01.2010
Ricciardi, Carla	17.01.2010
Rubio, Rafael Ignacio	20.02.2010
Saravanamuttu, Thifaviaranee	15.12.2009
Schjefte, P.	21.11.2009
Schmidt-Silvestri, Andrea	16.01.2010
Silva, E.R.	23.01.2010
StefanESCO, E.	28.12.2009
Stefanovich, Simone	08.12.2010
Tapia, A.	17.01.2010
Toure, El Hadj Oumar	24.12.2010
Tramasure, Anne Marie	04.02.2010
Ustun, Foridun	13.12.2009
Vaughan-Whitehe, Paul Ernest	20.01.2010
Wakeling, F.	08.12.2009
Welsh, William James	05.01.2010
Westlen, S.	17.09.2009
Yeterian-Parist, Maria-Sab	30.11.2009
Zapater-Pomar, Iris	21.11.2009
Zinke, Ilse M.	29.10.2009

UNESCO

Canali, Samira	29.10.2009
Chakravarty, Taru	17.12.2009
Cobos, Porras L.	18.12.2009
De Sa, B.	23.12.2009
Everard Graham, Pamela	16.01.2010

Fauquet, Renée 20.12.2009
 Fernandez, G.A. 06.12.2009
 Griffiths, Frederick 26.12.2009
 Hampikian, Chake 18.12.2009
 Hegyi Kis, Eszter 31.10.2009
 Higgins, Isabel Winfred 28.12.2009
 Hogan, T.L. 14.11.2009
 Lippens, M. Julien Roger 16.12.2009
 Lyons, Danielle 10.12.2009
 Marchant, Harry 12.01.2010
 Massardo, H el ene Lucie 12.01.2010
 Matalon, Nicole 08.02.2010
 Nguni, Eliam Titus 03.01.2010
 Pompeo, Angelo 30.12.2009
 Roberts, K. 23.12.2009
 Samson, Raymond 23.11.2009
 Segouin, R.F. 08.12.2009
 Shepherd, Lilymae 19.11.2008
 Venet, G.P. 16.12.2009+

Mashaal, Hassan A.H. 10.11.2009
 Milandou, Jean-Baptiste 10.12.2009
 Montano, Salvador F. 15.01.2010
 Morgan, King C. 25.01.2010
 Odetoyinbo, Joshua A. 08.11.2009
 * Outschoorn, A.S. 18.03.2009
 * Ozolins, Guntis 16.12.2009
 Pleic, Ratoko 29.11.2009
 Policarpo, Joao Andr e 25.08.2009
 Prasad, M. 08.01.2010
 Prilipko, Valentina 29.10.2009
 Ranotra, Des Raj 25.12.2009
 Reyes, Soledad Agust Unknown
 Shrestha, Laxman 16.11.2009
 Some, Kaya Antoine 15.10.2009
 Stachura, Stanislaw J. 11.01.2010
 Tan, A. 15.02.2009
 Velimirovic, Boris 09.01.2010
 Yao, Kuan Mu 14.11.2009

WHO

Albuquerque, Paulo Coimbr 11.12.2009
 Asvall, Jo Eirik 10.02.2010
 Baldassini, Marchesi B. 19.11.2009
 Bengoa, J.M. 16.01.2010
 Brzezinski, Zbigniew J. 16.12.2007
 Burke, Letitia M.E. 30.08.2009
 * Burrowes, Angela 02.05.2010
 Carmeli, A. 22.12.2009
 Chrusciel, T. 11.02.2010
 Corcoran, Patricia Unknown
 Costa Aguiar, Maria Luzia 07.12.2009
 Damstra, Thressa 09.12.2009
 Deblock, Odette C. 02.12.2009
 Dos Santos, Maria Do Rosario 30.11.2009
 Dunderdale, E. Unknown
 Elias, Ibrahim Fayez 31.10.2009
 Espinoza Rosas, Luis A. 10.01.2010
 Fernandes, Bonifacio 20.12.2009
 Ferullo, Anne Marie 03.01.2010
 Fricke Edel, Adriane Adele 26.01.2010
 Garcia, Erazoa 29.12.2009
 Haddad, Wadad 10.01.2010
 * Kao, Shi Who 31.01.2010
 Key, Unnye 06.11.2009
 Krishnan, Sulochana 15.02.2010
 Kuo, You Tseng 04.02.2010
 Kupferschmidt, Hans- G.E. 25.01.2010
 Lochore, Marie S. 29.10.2009
 Mahfuz Ali, Syed 06.12.2009
 Mamboury, Josette G. 12.12.2009

ICAO

Andersson, J. Unknown
 Aponso, Charles Wilfred M. 15.02.2010
 Bureau, Hercule 19.11.2009
 Buxton, Kathleen 24.12.2009
 Calero Parra, Luisa 23.06.2009
 Elle, B. 27.11.2009
 Gillett, J.S. 12.12.2009
 Larrosa Lombardi, Pia 27.06.2009
 Montgomerie, Jane Burnett 05.12.2009
 St. Pierre, T. 29.04.2009
 Trad, Andr e Richard 09.02.2010
 Vlahos, D. 06.02.2010

WMO

Baleriola, Enrique 19.01.2009
 Doos, Bo Richard 12.01.2010
 Garvin, Jean 21.10.2009
 Gasser, R. 01.02.2010
 Seid, Zara 15.02.2007

GATT

Leddy, Margaret P. 30.09.2009
 Mathez, Anastasie 07.10.2009
 Schmit, Janine M. 14.11.2009

IAEA

Aubertin, Maryse 14.10.2009
 Champer, Georgette 02.12.2009
 Clemann, Rose Elisabeth 16.11.2009

Ferrari, Edith	08.12.2009	WIPO	
Frank, Elizabeth	02.09.2009	Boytha, Gyorgy	07.20.2010
Girgis, G.	29.01.2010		
Gonzaga, V.	25.09.2009	IFAD	
Ha-Vinh, Phuong	13.01.2010	Grande, Dagrún	22.11.2009
Houtermans, Theresia	05.12.2009		
Kerr, Margaret Jean	05.01.2010	UNIDO	
Muehl, A.	05.01.2010	Balzo, Agustina P.	22.12.2008
Radil, Christine	23.11.2009	Colborne, Rae	09.01.2010
Twersky, Dorianna	22.01.2010	Cooper, Frances Victoria	20.02.2010
Yuan, Hong-Chien	17.11.2009	Geneidy, A.	04.12.2009
		Khan, Riaz Ahmed	15.01.2010
IMO		Knepell, Curt	07.01.2010
De Franchis, Francisco	01.12.2009	Matthews, Ian	10.01.2010
		Mitra, Anna	28.11.2009
ITU		Parkinson, Margaret M.	12.01.2010
Barabas, Pamela Ann	29.11.2009	Povo, Maria Teresa	08.01.2010
Kummer, Janine Suzanne	17.02.2010		
Mao, Yu Yueh	21.12.2009		
Oldcroft-Sheldrake, Liliás J.	21.02.2010		
Senuma, Yoshimasa	03.02.2010		
Smith (Mc Sweeney), Katherine	14.12.2009		

*** Member of AFICS (NY)**

RICHARD JENNINGS

AFICS (NY) was very sad to learn of the passing away of our friend and Association member, Richard Jennings, on 18 February, 2010. Our sincere condolences to his family and many friends.

President Emeritus of the UNSRC Jazz Society, Richard spearheaded two very successful jazz concerts for the benefit of the AFICS (NY) Charities Foundation, which were much enjoyed by all.

As we were completing this Anniversary Issue of the Bulletin, we learned that Richard's family would hold a memorial tribute for him on Saturday, 17 April at St. Peter's Church, 619 Lexington Ave.(at 54th St.) in Manhattan.



We hope to report on that tribute and carry an obituary for Richard Jennings in a future issue.

CORRESPONDENTS

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Spain (Madrid)	Mr. José M. Aguilar, President, The North-South Institute, Apartado 2371, 28080 Madrid; Fax: 34-91-5636302; <institute@north-southglobal.org> and <aguilar.josemanuel@hotmail.com>
Yemen	Fuad K. Mohammed, P.O. Box 16334 Hadda, Sana'a; Fax: 967 1 448405; <alyaran@yahoo.com>

**We need Correspondents for other areas of the U.S., as well as other countries of the world not presently covered where AFICS(NY) members reside. Volunteers would be most welcome!*

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