World Learning is a nonprofit organization advancing leadership in more than 60 countries. We envision a just world, driven by engaged citizens and thriving communities. To achieve this goal, our mission is to empower people and strengthen institutions through education, exchange, and development programs.

On the cover (clockwise from left):

SIT Study Abroad, China: Language, Culture, and Ethnic Minorities—Based in Yunnan Province, this program examines the social, environmental, economic, and cultural factors shaping Yunnan’s and China’s future. Students gain a deep understanding of China’s rich multicultural history and broadened perspectives on the major issues and challenges confronting China today.

World Learning Grant Solicitation and Management (GSM) managed the Child Blindness Program on behalf of USAID with six partner organizations: Child Sight Foundation, Helen Keller International, The International Rescue Committee, ORBIS International, Sightsavers, and Seva Foundation. This photo shows a young girl having her vision tested in Bangladesh.

The Experiment in International Living, Brazil: Culture and Environmental Sustainability—Experimenters explore contemporary opportunities and challenges facing Brazil, particularly in the area of sustainability and environmental conservation, while experiencing many of Brazil’s different cultures and communities.
My first year at World Learning has been an exciting journey of discovery. I’ve been inspired by my talented colleagues, driven by a common mission of empowering a new generation of global citizens to build peace, prosperity, social justice, and inclusion worldwide. I’ve been honored to help drive our programs in international education, exchange, and development to achieve greater global impact, more innovative projects, expanded inclusion, new partnerships, and enhanced financial security.

In these pages, you’ll read stories from throughout this diverse institution—encompassing the SIT Graduate Institute in Brattleboro and Washington, The Experiment in International Living, SIT Study Abroad, International Honors Program, and the International Development and Exchange Program—of people making a real difference in the lives of others. You’ll meet new leaders with fresh ideas, strong values, and tech savvy who are at the forefront of change, innovation, and envisioning new worlds of possibilities. You’ll see how World Learning has re dedicated it self to bring diversity to our programs, partner with like-minded institutions, and incorporate cutting-edge technology into our work.

This year, the School for International Training received reaccreditation for the next decade from the New England Association of Schools and Colleges, which praised SIT for its “strong sense of mission and how it has framed its Study Abroad programs and Graduate Institute degrees around issues of peace building, development, conflict transformation, and international education.” Our global development program received major new grants to support basic education in Lebanon and Pakistan, strengthen civil society groups in Myanmar and Sudan, reform higher education institutions in Kosovo, and promote human rights and reconciliation in Nigeria.

We also launched the Experiment Leadership Institute, which will prepare a diverse set of promising young people to succeed in college and become lifelong global leaders. Starting in summer 2015, 30 high school students will receive training in Vermont and Washington, DC, and travel either to South Africa to study multiculturalism or to India to study global health issues. They will then return home to mentor other students, develop social innovation projects, and serve as a window on the world for their classmates. This program is sponsored by the Thomas L. and Ann B. Friedman Foundation, the Lowey Family Foundation, the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation and other generous supporters.

We also expanded our use of emerging technology and social innovation to address the challenges of poverty, illiteracy, disease, and conflict. Around the world, we are introducing Ethiopian high school students to mobile banking, assisting Iraqi exchange students to coordinate their work to aid homeless people through Facebook, training teachers in El Salvador to catch up with their computer-literate students, and equipping Egyptian secondary students with Digital Fabrication Laboratories and 3D printers to help them tackle local challenges such as urban sprawl and water insecurity.

In addressing these challenges, we have benefitted from our outstanding Board of Trustees, under the strong leadership of outgoing Chair Roz Delori and incoming Chair Tom Hiatt. In addition, we launched a Global Advisory Council of 35 distinguished leaders from 14 countries to serve as ambassadors for World Learning and partners in our mission. Council members are partnering with us to teach inclusive development at our graduate center in Washington, promote more participation by Hispanics in SIT programs, gain U.S. Department of Education funding for a study abroad program on the African diaspora with Morehouse College, and expand our work in support of persons with disabilities.

I look back on this year both inspired and humbled. The power of individual donors combined with external support from foundation, business, and government partners enables World Learning to empower communities, strengthen institutions, and advance leadership worldwide. Your generous support is essential to our ability to run our programs and seize new opportunities. Thank you for your contributions this year and continued support of World Learning and the millions of people it serves around the globe.

Donald Steinberg
President and Chief Executive Officer

World Learning Annual Report 2014
Rosamond Delori—known affectionately as Roz—leaves an indelible mark on the entire World Learning organization as she steps down this year from her position as board chair. Roz has been a devoted and tireless champion of World Learning’s mission to educate and empower young people, giving them the tools and training to become engaged citizens working to have a lasting, positive impact in communities throughout the world.

Roz traces her connection to World Learning to the 1950s, when her parents hosted two Experimenters at their home in New Hampshire. Her experience continued when three of her own children attended SIT Study Abroad programs in the 1990s. In 2002, Roz became a trustee of World Learning, serving as vice chair from 2004 to 2006, and as a member of the Investment Committee from 2003 to 2011. During her tenure as board chair from 2011 to 2014, World Learning celebrated the 80th anniversary of The Experiment in International Living, the 50th anniversary of SIT, and countless other milestones.

Roz’s collaborative approach and true dedication to the organization have won her the highest admiration from her fellow board members. “Roz has given so much to World Learning in thought, clarification of direction, persuasiveness, fairness, and financial generosity,” says her colleague Susan Plimpton. “We on the board will miss her.” In recognition of the unprecedented achievements of her tenure with World Learning, Roz was recently granted an honorary doctorate from SIT—the first such degree ever bestowed by the organization.

While her term as board chair has come to a close, Roz has reaffirmed her commitment to World Learning through a gift to establish the Delori Fund for Excellence. President Steinberg expressed his immense gratitude to Roz for her dedication and generosity. “This kind of gift enables the organization to achieve excellence in empowering a new generation of global citizens and in supporting democracy, good governance, diversity, and inclusion,” he said. “On behalf of the entire World Learning community, I want to offer my heartfelt thanks to Roz.” In recognition of Roz’s faithful service, the Board has named her Chair Emerita, a position that will allow her to engage with special projects and have a continued impact on World Learning for years to come.
Building on Our Robust Leadership

Over the past year, World Learning was pleased to welcome eight new members to our Board of Trustees. Their diverse international experiences, shared enthusiasm for our mission, and commitment to increasing the impact of our programs make them ideal contributors to World Learning. Two of our recent additions—Sharon Lim and Morris Rossabi—are featured in profiles below. You can learn more about all of our board members by visiting www.worldlearning.org/about-us/board/.

Sharon Lim

Sharon Lim, who is currently responsible for Asian-Pacific Communications at Medtronic, Inc., has a lifelong passion for forging connections across global divides—a passion that aligns strongly with World Learning’s mission. A former Australian diplomat who served in Australia, Thailand, and Malaysia, she also worked in the U.S. House of Representatives, and served as head of public affairs for Asia Pacific with Cargill, Inc. World Learning welcomed Ms. Lim to the Board of Trustees in October 2013.

Ms. Lim developed her interests in travel and shared cultural experiences at an early age in Malaysia, where her family frequently hosted visiting international students and the children of friends from abroad. Her studies took her from Malaysia to Australia and then to the U.S. “The more I travel and meet people, the more I realize that we are all fundamentally the same, with similar aspirations, hopes, dreams, and goals for ourselves, our children, and our community. The citizen-to-citizen diplomacy that World Learning provides truly bridges gaps in understanding and broadens one’s perspectives, resulting in greater empathy and welcoming of other people and cultures.”

Morris Rossabi

World Learning was pleased to welcome Professor Morris Rossabi to the Board of Trustees this year. Professor Rossabi, who teaches at Columbia University and Queens College, City University of New York, is the author or editor of 20 books, including China and Inner Asia, Modern Mongolia, and Voyager from Xanadu. A leading voice in Inner and East Asian scholarship, he brings extensive experience and a keen interest in global education to the World Learning community.

Professor Rossabi’s passion for international learning stems naturally from his own intercultural background. Born in Alexandria, Egypt, he moved with his family to New York at the age of nine, and later lived and studied both in Asia and Africa. “The opportunity to serve on the World Learning Board of Trustees was a great honor, and fit wonderfully with my own desire to help Americans learn about other peoples and cultures. I have been impressed by World Learning’s vital development projects in Asia and Africa, which have had a significant impact and will continue to contribute to a better world for all of us.”

Make a gift online.
NEASC Reaccreditation

In September, SIT received its 10-year reaccreditation letter from the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC). SIT was granted a clean review, meaning that the institution will have the full 10-year reaccreditation, with a standard requirement for a mid-term review in five years.

This commendable outcome was the culmination of years of hard work by individuals across SIT and World Learning. It is a powerful validation of the expanding impact that World Learning programs are making to empower a new generation of global citizens to build peace, prosperity, and inclusion through education, exchange and development.

“SIT is distinctive among New England higher education institutions for its international footprint of study abroad programs and graduate degree and certificate offerings, particularly given its size. We commend SIT for the unique and valuable place it occupies in the landscape of higher education.”

SIT Excellence for Half a Century—and Counting

In August, SIT commemorated its 50th anniversary with a reunion of more than 300 alumni, students, staff, and friends on campus in Brattleboro. Over the course of two days, graduates of all ages reflected on their experiences and the many ways in which their participation in SIT’s programs shaped and transformed their lives. In addition to receptions, panels, and sessions honoring SIT’s enduring commitment to experiential learning and social justice, the weekend featured a banquet that recognized Alvino and Bea Fantini’s combined 98 years of service to the organization and celebrated surpassing the initial $100,000 fundraising goal for the Alvino and Bea Fantini Scholarship.

World Learning President and CEO Donald Steinberg shared a congratulatory letter from Sen. Patrick Leahy (D-VT) in which the senator expressed his admiration of SIT’s work and 50 successful years. “As the world grows increasingly complex and interconnected, we need educated and engaged global citizens with an understanding of intercultural differences and similarities,” he wrote. “Thank you and your team in Vermont, Washington, DC, across the country, and around the world for decades of dedication to these noble principles.”

Watch the SIT 50th anniversary video at graduate.sit.edu.

“As an alumnus of SIT, I was proud to be associated with this event and with the 50-year history of the School for International Training. The work we do on campus and around the world changes lives and enables citizens, particularly young citizens, to advance peace.”

—Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost Dr. John Lucas
Karen Eckhart
La Jolla, California | SIT Graduate Institute, MAT ’93

When Karen Eckhart enrolled at SIT Graduate Institute in 1992, her background stood out from those of her peers. After 25 years teaching English as a Second Language, she decided—at age 53—that it was time for a new chapter. “I was eager to explore new developments in language learning,” she says, “and I had always dreamed of living in New England. SIT seemed like the perfect fit when it came to pursuing a master’s degree.”

Karen found SIT’s emphasis on experiential learning to be an incredibly effective and compelling framework for engaging with the subject matter. “I loved that I was encouraged to reflect on my professional work in the context of new material, and I enjoyed the dialogue that was sparked by my professors’ insightful comments on my coursework.” During her yearlong course of study, she found tremendous inspiration from her professors—particularly Bea Fantini, who was instrumental in arranging Karen’s winter internship in Ecuador.

In recognition of Bea and her husband Alvino’s 98 years of combined service to SIT, Karen recently made a generous gift to the scholarship established in their honor. This fund will enable students from underserved populations throughout the world to pursue an SIT Graduate Institute education. “I was fortunate to have received a small inheritance that made my SIT education possible, but I am keenly aware that many students are not so lucky,” Karen says. “I had so many enriching experiences that year at SIT, and I want to make sure other students have that same opportunity.”

“I had so many enriching experiences that year at SIT, and I want to make sure other students have that same opportunity.”
Celebrating a Lifetime of Dedication

Alvino and Bea Fantini’s welcoming faces are familiar to many students who have taken part in a World Learning program in the last 50 years. With 98 years of combined service to World Learning between them, the Fantinis have had an unprecedented impact not only on the organization but on the thousands of SIT participants they have taught. World Learning is thus thrilled to announce the establishment of the Alvino and Bea Fantini Scholarship in their honor.

“The Most Rewarding Homestay of All”

Alvino’s involvement with World Learning began in 1954, when he received a scholarship to study in Mexico with The Experiment in International Living. He later joined SIT’s faculty. During his 48-year tenure, he led trips, taught classes, launched new programs, and witnessed the edification an international, cross-cultural education affords young people. “I’ve seen firsthand how these experiences truly change the course of young people’s lives. Participants learn a lot about the people and cultures they encounter, but they also learn an incredible amount about themselves.” Since his retirement in 2003, Alvino has remained engaged with the World Learning community and currently serves as chair of the Institutional Archives Committee.

When Alvino began working as an Experiment group leader in 1963, he introduced the program to his soon-to-be wife, Bea. Born in Italy to Bolivian diplomats and raised in Bolivia, Peru, Argentina, and Venezuela, she connected immediately with the mission of the organization and accepted a position teaching Spanish to groups preparing for their trips. “I learned so much from those around me. In a way, my time living and working here has been the longest, most rewarding homestay of all.” Now the director of SIT’s Language and Culture Department, she will soon celebrate her 50th year with the organization.

Creating Truly Intercultural Experiences

Alvino and Bea are grateful for the opportunity to lend their name to this scholarship, which offers vital financial support to international students hoping to enroll in SIT Graduate Institute. “The kinds of experiences SIT fosters are just as vital for students from other nations,” says Alvino, “but they can’t always take advantage of those opportunities because the cost of traveling to the U.S. can be so great.”

Open to all international learners, the scholarship promises to increase the cultural diversity of the Graduate Institute. “Cross-cultural understanding stems from personal, individual relationships with people who are different from you,” says Bea. “One way to foster these connections is to create a campus that reflects a truly intercultural population, and that’s what this scholarship will help to achieve.”

The Fantinis formed close and lasting connections with many past participants, and these individuals and others have honored Bea and Alvino’s devotion to World Learning by providing over $100,000 of support for the scholarship to date. The scholarship will ensure that the legacy of their commitment lives on for generations.

To make your gift to the Alvino and Bea Fantini Scholarship fund, please visit sit.edu/graduate/donatenow.
Generation Study Abroad

“Our goal is to provide access not simply to international experiences, but—in keeping with SIT’s mission—to allow a broad range of students to experience the high impact practices that SIT programs are known for, including field experience, meaningful interaction with faculty, and undergraduate research.” Laurie Black, SIT’s dean for external relations and strategic enrollment management, explained SIT’s participation in Generation Study Abroad, a new initiative of the Institute of International Education (IIE), which intends to double the number of U.S. students studying abroad by 2020. SIT brings its own perspective and strongly held beliefs to its Generation Study Abroad commitment, with a particular focus on inclusion of racially and economically diverse participants.

One key component of SIT’s engagement is a pledge of at least $1 million yearly in need-based scholarship funding. In 2010, SIT established a pioneering program that matches Federal Pell Grants for students participating in our study abroad programs. The result has been increased access for undergraduates with limited financial means. Building on the success of this program, a scholarship has been established for first-generation college students applying to SIT’s Master’s in International Education with the goal of becoming study abroad advisors. By positioning these students to inspire other first-generation students to take part in international educational experiences, SIT hopes to foster greater diversity among study abroad participants.

Another important initiative intended to reduce racial disparities in study abroad is SIT’s innovative collaboration with a group of Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), which aims to increase HBCU student participation in study abroad through faculty and staff development, scholarship funding, and targeted marketing campaigns. SIT is also in discussion with Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSIs) through the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU) to further develop access to study abroad.

Finally, Generation Study Abroad places a priority on highlighting the long-term impact of study abroad on students’ lives and careers. SIT has recently released data from the SIT Study Abroad Long-Term Impacts and Outcomes Survey, based on over 2,000 responses from alumni of the last three decades. This report is an important first step in assessing impact and sharing alumni stories, quotes, and statistics in an effort to inspire more students to pursue these valuable opportunities.

“Generation Study Abroad is deeply connected to the mission of SIT,” explains Dean Black. “Our dedication to increasing access is fundamental to our programs, and we are thrilled to continue our efforts in partnership with other organizations.”
**Capturing Long-Term Impacts and Outcomes**

In 2014 SIT Study Abroad conducted a long-term impacts and outcomes survey report, based on more than 2,000 responses from alumni of the last three decades. Marianne McGarrity ’14, an alumna of SIT Graduate Institute, authored the report as her senior practicum. She notes, “Alumni articulated the lasting impact of their SIT Study Abroad experience in very specific ways. In many cases it changed how they view the world and their relationships with others, increased their ability to respect another person’s experience, and informed their subsequent educational and career decisions.”

This study represents a significant achievement in illustrating the enduring influence our unique programs have on participants for years to come. Alumni surveyed lauded the experiential, immersive nature of SIT Study Abroad programs, and especially emphasized their Independent Study as vital to their career preparation and choices. This pioneering research project stands as a powerful testament to the lasting value of an SIT experience. Even many years later, alumni still cite their time abroad with SIT as a key factor that enabled them to become highly accomplished and socially conscious leaders.

“My Independent Study Project was a life-changing experience. Not only was I able to develop my own research question, but I also learned the skills to collect and report findings. Studying the practice of rural health on Samos set the stage for my interest in pursuing public health as an occupation, particularly around community and economic development.”

—SIT Study Abroad Greece 1998 alumnus

*does not include International Honors Program participants*
Program Overview

The Experiment in International Living provides summer abroad programs for high school students who want to connect deeply and engage meaningfully with the richness and complexities of another country. Participants explore the host country through hands-on experiences in local communities and through the lens of a specific theme. Programs are designed to equip participants not only with essential cultural skills and, in many cases, language skills, but also with a deeper awareness of and sensitivity to critical global issues shaping the diverse communities and regions we visit.

Empowering the Next Generation of Global Leaders

When Aaron Morehouse assumed the role of executive director at The Experiment in late 2013, he saw a great opportunity to revitalize the programs while reaffirming the core values of the 80-year-old organization. Based on the recommendations of a yearlong task force comprised of internal and external stakeholders, Morehouse advocated for a greater emphasis on youth leadership.

“We live in a rapidly changing world with major global issues that must be attended to,” he said. “We need a cadre of young adults with a strong sense of civic responsibility, awareness of global issues, strong interpersonal leadership skills, and an ability to foster relationships among people from a diversity of backgrounds.”

To fill this need, Morehouse led the development and launch of the Experiment Leadership Institute. This program provides a new track of issues-oriented programs consistent with World Learning’s mission to develop the next generation of global leaders.

In summer 2015, the first class of 30 exceptionally qualified young leaders will train together at World Learning’s Washington, DC, office. This workshop will use the city as a classroom, allowing students to study vital issues through discussions with political and nongovernmental organization leaders, field trips, and group exercises.

After training in DC, Experiment Leadership Institute participants will split into two cohorts and travel abroad to study a critical global issue. Students in India will examine challenges related to public health and community development, while South Africa participants will engage in discussions and activities surrounding youth leadership in peace, politics, and human rights. In both locations, participants will interact with youth, local government, NGOs and community organizations, and take part in leadership workshops, language classes, homestays, and cultural events.

At the conclusion of their time abroad, students will return to School for International Training’s Brattleboro, Vermont, campus for a re-entry workshop, where they will reflect on and synthesize their overseas experience. Under the guidance of Experiment faculty, participants will prepare an action project to complete in their home communities that draws on their global competency and leadership skills.

“Bringing these lessons back home is a key component of the Experiment Leadership Institute,” says Morehouse. “Our students aren’t going abroad to teach others; they’re going abroad to learn from others and discover what it takes to bring about meaningful and substantive change in their home communities.”

A transformational gift made by task force member and former World Learning trustee Ann Friedman helped make the Experiment Leadership Institute possible and also provided funds to ensure that every student selected for this highly competitive program receives a scholarship to cover the full cost of the program. This unprecedented level of support means that the Experiment Leadership Institute is accessible to qualified students regardless of their financial means.

As he approaches his first anniversary as executive director, Morehouse is enthusiastic about what the Experiment Leadership Institute will mean for The Experiment and for World Learning. “This is an excellent opportunity for us to reconnect with our roots and provide a pathway into the future. The Experiment Leadership Institute will prove to be a flagship program that digs deep into global issues, enabling and empowering young leaders both at home and abroad.”
The list below represents the founding donors to the **Experiment Leadership Institute** and recognizes the total gifts and pledges committed to the Experiment Leadership Institute as of November 1, 2014.

### GLOBAL VISIONARIES
- Ann and Thomas Friedman
- Stephen and Nita Lowey
- The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation

### PRESIDENT’S LEADERSHIP CIRCLE
- Richard and Virginia Keim

### GLOBAL AMBASSADORS
- Morelle Lasky Levine
- Virginia Loeb and James Sperling

### WORLD LEARNING SOCIETY
- Emilie and Douglas Ogden
- Jan Solomon and Ken Simonson

### ODYSSEY CLUB
- Anonymous
- Robert and Pamela Adams

### DONALD AND LESLIE WATT SOCIETY
- Lisa Gurwitch
- Donald Steinberg

### GORDON BOYCE SOCIETY
- John Lucas

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**The Experiment**

**In 2014**

Nearly **500 Experimenters** traveled to **21 countries** worldwide

From **36 U.S. states**, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico, and **11 countries** around the world

- Argentina
- Botswana
- Brazil
- China
- Costa Rica
- Cuba
- Ecuador
- France
- Germany
- Italy
- Japan
- Korea
- Mexico
- Mongolia
- Morocco
- Nicaragua
- Peru
- South Africa
- Spain
- Tanzania
- Thailand

Make a gift online.
New Technologies: Cisco and World Learning

Cisco Systems plays a vital role in helping World Learning empower the next generation of global citizens. In partnership with the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), Cisco and World Learning have established technology training programs to improve economic opportunities for young people in Mexico and Burma. This year Cisco also donated equipment with a market value of more than $92,000 to help World Learning upgrade its infrastructure.

“World Learning is proud to partner with Cisco on programs that improve youth employment opportunities and strengthen communities,” said President and CEO Donald Steinberg. “We’re also grateful for Cisco’s generous donation of equipment. Having high-quality technology enables us to continue our work implementing education, exchange, and development programs around the globe.”

In Northern Mexico, Cisco, World Learning, and USAID are collaborating to create Cisco Networking Academies that provide Information Communications Technology and entrepreneurship training in communities that have been wracked by the violence of the ongoing drug war. The Networking Academies provide safe places for young people, their families, and other community members to build knowledge and skills in technology that allows participants to access better job opportunities and find ways to positively contribute to their communities.

In Burma this same partnership trained more than 250 participants and established three Cisco Networking Academies to help support the growing small and medium enterprise sector, most critically in rural areas, and the expanding information communications technology environment nationwide. World Learning worked with Cisco to train instructors in Cisco Career certification, and course content has been incorporated into the existing curriculum of the University of Computer Science in Yangon, Bahan, and Mandalay.

Cisco’s in-kind donation will help World Learning implement these and many other programs by enhancing computer network security and allowing the organization to increase network access to field staff.

“Our goal is to help nonprofits like World Learning increase the efficiency and effectiveness in both their internal operations as well as program delivery,” said Peter Tavernise, executive director of the Cisco Foundation.
International Development and Exchange Programs

World Learning’s International Development and Exchange Programs empower people and strengthen institutions through education, capacity development, and exchange projects. Together they build the leadership necessary to address critical issues such as poverty, youth participation, educational access and quality, the spread of HIV/AIDS, marginalization of women and children, and government accountability.

To foster individual leadership, we promote understanding and appreciation for the ideas, cultures, and context of others. Our programs encourage leaders to use connection and consensus to create lasting positive change, while working to eliminate inequality, discrimination, and oppression.

Listening to communities and building local capacity are critical to developing strong institutions and organizations. World Learning draws on 80 years of expertise to help our partners identify specific needs, resources, and challenges that inform the design and implementation of custom development activities. This approach ensures that our partners invest deeply in projects and provide the local leadership required to ensure their long-term success.

Training for Pakistan Project:

• Our FATA Scholarship Program had 76 students.
• Our U.S. scholars program currently has 31 students.
• 19 short-term trainings were conducted for 501 participants.

The Lebanon Expand Your Horizons program trained 257 participants from over 50 organizations in the public, private, and CSO sectors.

Through the Linking Education to Employment Program, World Learning supports 3 public university Career Development Centers in Egypt—this year the centers held 913 training sessions (including soft skills development, career counseling, Business English, and job search skills) for a total of 1,679 students and alumni. Of the students who participated in Career Development Center trainings and responded to our survey, 92% of them said that they used skills learned at the CDC in their employment searches.
On October 9, I stepped down as chair of the World Learning Board. Serving as chair has been my honor and my pleasure and I was humbled to receive SIT’s first honorary doctorate in recognition of my tenure. While this is a bittersweet milestone for me, I am very proud of World Learning’s sustained commitment to international education, exchange, and development and I look forward to supporting World Learning in the years to come.

During my time as chair, I visited many of our programs around the world and witnessed World Learning’s global impact, the devotion of our staff, and the respect that the organization earns in the local communities in which we are engaged. I have tremendous confidence that World Learning will continue to excel in all dimensions under Tom Hiatt’s (incoming board chair) and Don Steinberg’s leadership, thanks both to the dedication of the administrators, faculty, and staff, and to the extraordinary generosity of our donors. I believe deeply in World Learning’s mission and its ability to empower tomorrow’s leaders today through cross-cultural and experiential learning around critical global issues.

I will miss working closely with the entire team to maintain the excellence of World Learning’s many education programs and to expand our development efforts throughout the world. My gratitude goes to my fellow board members and the entire World Learning global staff for their invaluable hard work and commitment to the mission of the organization.

Most of all, this brings my sincere thanks to every alumni, parent, and friend who has given generously to World Learning both this year and during my time as chair. With your gift, you affirm World Learning’s goal of advancing leadership and empowering driven, engaged citizens throughout the world.

Thank you for your continued support,

Rosamond P. Delori
World Learning Board Chair 2011—2014
SIT Study Abroad Parent ‘92 ‘95 ‘99 ‘01
Individual Donors

Recognizing giving based on cash received from July 1, 2013, through June 30, 2014

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(continued on page 17)
Christina Holt, MD

South Portland, Maine | International Honors Program ’86

When Dr. Christina Holt was asked by the International Honors Program (IHP) to lend her expertise to the development of a new program in comparative international health, she leapt at the opportunity to put into practice some of the ideas that grew out of her own IHP experience as a college junior.

Tina credits IHP with helping her to direct her enthusiasm and energy and weave together her varied interests. “As a sophomore anthropology major at Harvard, I struggled to pursue my interest in international health while meeting both the core study requirements and the demands of my major,” she says. She enrolled in IHP and spent a year studying cross-cultural visual anthropology in England, France, Yugoslavia, Hungary, Austria, India, Australia, Indonesia, and Japan.

This rigorous, interdisciplinary experience later informed her work with immigrants and individuals from all sociocultural levels in her subsequent career in medicine as a doctor in Maine interlaced with international work. “IHP isn’t one of those programs where you sit in an Internet café and write messages to your family talking about how beautiful the tourist sites are,” she says. “It’s a launch pad for new creative ideas that benefit not only the students who participate, but also the global intellectual community.”

Christina hopes that students who participate in IHP Health and Community: Globalization, Culture, and Care—the program she helped develop in 2005—have a similarly enlightening experience. “I was so glad to be a part of creating a comparative program in medicine and public health, and I hope it will be as meaningful for new students as my own IHP experience was for me. There’s simply no substitute for hands-on, experiential learning in relevant locations—it can have a truly transformative effect on the lives of young people.”
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Sydney Temple

Berkeley, California | SIT Study Abroad, Nepal ’84

As a sophomore at Macalester College, Sydney Temple was weighing his study abroad options when he came across some photos of Nepal. “I grew up in the mountains,” he says, “and there was something about the scale and grandeur of the Himalayas that pulled me in.” Syd went on to spend six months in Nepal with SIT, living with a local family and studying traditional Nepalese belief systems.

After just two weeks studying the Nepali language, Syd arrived in the country and found himself in a household without a single English speaker. The immersive experience paid off, and Syd and his peers quickly became comfortable holding basic conversations in Nepali. “People were so open and welcoming,” he recalls. “We may speak different languages or seem foreign to each other at first, but deep down, everybody’s pretty much the same. We all have the same hopes and feelings.”

Syd’s study abroad experience in Nepal has informed his work as an engineer focused on ecological habitat restoration. Witnessing a diversity of thoughts, opinions, and lifestyles taught him to approach ecological engineering problems with an eye toward the importance of local cultural issues. His experience was personally significant, as well: he met his future wife, Sarah, on the program. Coming full circle, their daughter Kaila participated in The Experiment in Scotland in 2012. To acknowledge the influence that World Learning has had on their family and to enable other alumni to make an even greater impact in the world after their World Learning experiences, Syd and Sarah have become generous supporters of the Advancing Leaders Fellowship, launched in the San Francisco Bay Area in 2013. The Fellowship enables World Learning alumni to complete an original social innovation project by providing them with comprehensive leadership training, a robust support network of mentors and peers, and a monetary award.

“World Learning serves an important role in our rapidly changing world,” Syd says. “Programs like SIT Study Abroad, The Experiment, and the Advancing Leaders Fellowship train young people to consider the cultural and social context of the problems they are challenged to solve. These programs played a vital role in my life and the lives of my wife and daughter, and we believe that the more people who have access to these opportunities, the better.”

“[World Learning programs] train young people to consider the cultural and social context of the problems they are challenged to solve.”
Sefakor Komabu-Pomeyie has beaten the odds, and now she’s helping others do the same. In Ghana, almost 300,000 citizens with disabilities have never attended school—and fewer than 2,500 have reached the post-graduate level. So when Komabu-Pomeyie enrolled in SIT Graduate Institute in 2011, she knew that she had accomplished something important—and she felt compelled to use her education to help others. “The only advantage I have is my education,” she says. “Otherwise I would be begging for food or doing nothing, which is the unfortunate fate of so many disabled persons in Ghana.”

While at SIT, she developed a plan for a media campaign to address the significant obstacles that stand between disabled students and school in Ghana. Thanks to the generosity of the World Learning community, she put her plan into action as an inaugural World Learning Advancing Leaders Fellow in 2013.

During her fellowship, Komabu-Pomeyie established a nonprofit organization, Enlightening and Empowering People with Disabilities, and launched the Accessible Schools Campaign in Ghana, which seeks to implement accessible building design in schools throughout the country. The campaign earned her team the country’s first National Disability Excellence Award.

Says Komabu-Pomeyie, “World Learning helped to provide me the funds, training, and mentorship to successfully implement my project, and I’m positive that as a result our work will have a lasting impact on the lives of people with disabilities in Ghana.” To date, the Advancing Leaders Fellowship—created with seed funding from former World Learning trustee Judy Huret and her husband, Bob, and generously supported by many others—has helped 10 World Learning alumni launch original social innovation projects in Algeria, Cameroon, Chile, Ghana, Nepal, Pakistan, Tanzania, and the United States.

“The only advantage I have is my education. Otherwise I would be begging for food or doing nothing, which is the unfortunate fate of so many disabled persons in Ghana.”
Advancing Leaders Fellowship

The Advancing Leaders Fellowship (ALF) recognizes the ideas, talent, and vision of World Learning alumni by supporting fellows with an award of $10,000, comprehensive training in social innovation and leadership, and a support network of mentors and peers so that they can implement an original social innovation project. All alumni are invited to apply.

World Learning awarded the second annual Advancing Leaders Fellowship to five young social innovators on April 3, 2014. The event, held at the Centre for Social Innovation in New York, drew approximately 150 people and featured guest speaker Aaron Hurst, CEO of Imperative and founder of the Taproot Foundation.

The 2014 Advancing Leaders Fellows are:

Amira Ali Bouaouina
English in the Leadership Context, 2013
ALF Project: MALI (My Africa Learns To Inspire), Algeria

Thelma Boamah
SIT Graduate Institute, 2013
ALF Project: JuniorCamp Internship Program, Ghana

Alicia Moore
SIT Graduate Institute, 2013
ALF Project: A Battle Worth Fighting: Cultivating Military Veterans into Agricultural Warriors, United States

Gul Khan Naseer
South and Central Asia Region Legislative Fellows Program, 2013
ALF Project: Youth and Child Rights Clubs, Pakistan

Divine Ntaryike Jr.
International Visitor Leadership Program, 2012
ALF Project: SCINC: A Science Policy Transformer, Cameroon

The Experiment in International Living Community Partners

The Experiment has built ongoing partnerships with leading youth mentoring organizations and public and parochial schools from all regions of the United States. These partnerships are key to recruiting highly motivated lower-income and minority youth and individuals with disabilities.

Each local partner helps The Experiment identify motivated students, works to prepare students for the rigor of The Experiment programs, and serves as liaison with parents and guardians. Partners also assist students to raise additional money for program expenses, which aids in maximizing the investment of scholarship resources.

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The Infinity Club is a special group of supporters who have included World Learning, The Experiment in International Living, SIT Study Abroad, International Honors Program, or SIT Graduate Institute in their estate plans.

A planned gift in the form of a trust, gift of life insurance, charitable gift annuity, retirement plan assets, or bequest strengthens World Learning’s future. We are deeply grateful to the Infinity Club members listed here and hope their leadership will inspire others. We also welcome our new members whose names appear in bold. Learn more about the Infinity Club at worldlearning.org/support-us/ways-to-give.

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Writer Susan Whittlesey’s time spent abroad with The Experiment in International Living inspired a lifelong love for international travel. When she embarked with a group of fellow students for a summer on The Experiment in France in 1956, she did not yet know the impact it would have on her life. Her destination was Gap, a small city in southeast France, where she immersed herself in the language and culture while living with a local French family.

“The Experiment completely changed my outlook and approach to foreign cultures,” says Whittlesey. “The fact that I had seen France from the inside out, not just from a bus window, made me want to explore other cultures on a person-to-person basis. If I hadn’t spent that summer with my French family, I never would have had the confidence to go to Japan and teach in a school where I was the only westerner, or travel on my own in countries like Thailand and India.”

To honor the significant impact The Experiment has had on her life, Whittlesey has joined more than 100 other Infinity Club members by including World Learning in her estate plan. Her generous legacy gift will help expand World Learning’s programs and extend its reach to include participants from diverse ethnic, racial, geographic, and socioeconomic backgrounds for years to come. Says Whittlesey, “Our world is becoming more and more diverse, and the need for genuine cross-cultural understanding is more important than ever. One of the greatest gifts we can pass on to the next generation is the opportunity to experience a foreign country in a way that fosters genuine connections.”
When I decide to support an organization,” says former World Learning board member Ann Friedman, “I like to work from the inside, so that I can make a positive impact on their programs and activities.” As a result, Ann has played an integral role in ensuring that World Learning offers the most rewarding study abroad experience possible. In addition to her six years on the World Learning board, Ann also served on the task force that developed the Experiment Leadership Institute.

Ann’s connection to World Learning was forged in the summer of 1970, when she participated in The Experiment and found herself in the small Italian town of Fermo. The experience proved life-changing for the enthusiastic 16-year-old from Iowa. “Discovering that I had a knack for foreign languages—not to mention that I was capable of making close friends with people from a different culture—gave me tremendous self-confidence,” she says. “I’m so grateful to The Experiment for making an indelible impression on me and helping to shape my life. I hope that my support will influence another young person’s life in the way mine was.”

During her time on the board and continuing afterwards, Ann has worked tirelessly toward that goal, establishing an Experiment scholarship for students of her former high school in Des Moines and making a generous gift to World Learning that has proved crucial to the upcoming launch of the Experiment Leadership Institute in Summer 2015. She predicts that Experiment Leadership Institute students will return from their time abroad ready to apply what they have learned toward creating positive change in their home communities. “The sky’s the limit for young people today,” she says. “They’re very sophisticated and connected to the world. All they need is a little help to realize their dreams.”

“I’m so grateful to The Experiment for making an indelible impression on me and helping to shape my life. I hope that my support will influence another young person’s life in the way mine was.”
A growing number of corporations and foundations are providing funding for World Learning programs. These commitments reflect an increasing interest in our efforts to provide education, exchange, and development programs that empower and strengthen communities. The list below recognizes the organizations that made donations of $5,000 and above. Learn more about developing a corporate partnership with World Learning at worldlearning.org/support-us/ways-to-give.

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When 10-year-old Marlon Williams moved with his family to New York City from a small town in Guyana, he found himself out of his depth in an entirely invigorating way. “I was initially overwhelmed by how busy it was,” he recalls. “Navigating New York was an adventure. It was the city of opportunity.”

When he discovered the International Honors Program during his junior year of college, he felt uniquely prepared to immerse himself in the unfamiliar elements of a foreign culture. “I knew I had to go abroad to experience new places and learn from new people.”

His program focused on urban development—a field that was new to him at the time, but that came to inform his professional career. A conversation with his host mother in South Africa offered a profoundly influential perspective. “We could still see the after effects of apartheid,” he explains, “particularly in the divide between those living in the townships and those living in the city. I asked her why she chose to stay in the township, and she told me, ‘You give a place value when you call it your home.’”

The impact of this experience could not be more pronounced. After graduating, Marlon went on to become the advisor on housing for the City of New York and now serves as director of cross agency partnerships for the Department of Health. “IHP taught me the power of human connection and inspired me to create positive opportunities wherever I am. The program inspires not just a new generation of thinkers, but a new generation of doers.”
Global Advisory Council

The World Learning Global Advisory Council comprises a select group of international leaders in areas including development, education, government, civil society, and business who bring diverse perspectives and unique insights to the rapidly changing field of international education, development, and exchange. Established in 2014, the Council will enhance World Learning’s reach by providing strategic institutional guidance and raising the organization’s profile around the world. You can learn more about the Global Advisory Council at www.worldlearning.org/about-us/global-advisory-council.

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Edith Bergstrom

Atherton, California  |  The Experiment, Madrid, ’62

When she arrived in Madrid in 1962 to participate in The Experiment, Edith Bergstrom was already a seasoned world traveler. Her previous two summers spent living with a family in Mexico had been hugely rewarding, and she was excited to pursue equally illuminating experiences as a student in Spain. An art major from Pomona College, she intensely examined and sketched or recorded in notebooks the use of color and perspective distortions in major works in the Prado Museum. Also, the architecture and Old World magic of the cities and villages enchanted her. But it was the people she met who made the most significant impression on her. “It was enlightening to discover how people think in different situations and different cultures,” she says.

In the early 1960s, Spain was still under the totalitarian regime of General Francisco Franco. Witnessing firsthand the oppressive political reality that Spaniards faced helped to put the turbulent politics of the United States into perspective for Edith, and provided her with a new lens for looking at international issues. “The Experiment really opened my mind to the world. If only people took the time to understand others better—both at home and abroad—we would have more peace in all regions,” she remarks.

Art has remained Edith’s passion, and she has built a successful career as a painter based in California. In addition to her artistic work, Edith and her husband, Erik, have devoted themselves to efforts to provide family planning resources to women and families in Latin America through their eponymous foundation. Inspired by the global perspective that both her Experiment experience and her work in Latin America has afforded her, Edith and Erik recently made a generous gift to World Learning to establish the Erik E. and Edith H. Bergstrom Foundation Scholarship for SIT Study Abroad Latin American Programs.

Through this scholarship, Edith and Erik hope that more students who wish to study in the region will be able to benefit from the experiential, immersive learning that is so unique to World Learning’s study abroad programs. “Our desire is that the experiences young people have when they travel there will change their lives just the way my own experience changed mine, and that those young people will, in turn, bring about positive change in the world,” she says.
Financials

Consolidated Statement of Activities for the Year Ended June 30, 2014

Operating Revenues and Other Support

- Federal government grants and contracts: $77,897,137
- Tuition and program fees (net): 46,589,922
- Investment income: 2,065,334
- Contributions: 1,986,399
- Other grants and contracts: 1,445,796
- Auxiliary services: 703,431
- Other revenue: 216,979

Total operating revenues and other support: $130,904,998

Operating Expenses

- Government grants and contracts: $77,897,137
- Program and instruction: 34,164,251
- General support: 14,056,610
- Other grants and contracts: 1,528,936
- Student services: 1,471,688
- Program support: 954,115
- Auxiliary services: 325,439
- Interest on indebtedness: 80,599
- Other: 68,971

Total operating expenses: $130,547,746

Change in net assets from operations: $357,252
Change in net assets from non-operating activities: $5,243,429
Change in net assets: $5,600,681

Statement of Financial Position
June 30, 2014

ASSETS
Cash and cash equivalents: $3,599,324
Accounts and notes receivable, net: 12,584,779
Contributions receivable, net: 548,244
Prepaid expenses and other assets: 6,372,058
Investments: 49,535,429
Property, plant, and equipment, net of accumulated depreciation: 7,153,284
Total assets: $79,793,118

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

LIABILITIES
Accounts payable and accrued expenses: $6,784,666
Advance payments and deferred revenue: 9,181,159
Borrowings under line of credit: 5,061,031
Notes payable: 1,777
Capital lease obligations: 175,470
Federal loan program advances: 878,072
Total liabilities: $22,082,175

NET ASSETS
Unrestricted: 11,955,076
Temporarily restricted: 15,197,117
Permanently restricted: 30,558,750
Total net assets: $57,710,943
Total liabilities and net assets: $79,793,118

World Learning Annual Report 2014
A Legacy That Lives On

The late Barbara Dirks filled a pivotal role in the World Learning community for nearly half a century. In 1959 she opened The Experiment in International Living’s San Francisco office, where she served as director for six years before returning to Vermont to assist in the development of SIT and to train Peace Corps volunteers prior to their departure. When she passed away in 2012, her legacy gift ensured that her influence would continue to be felt at World Learning.

Barbara believed strongly in the importance of international experiences and perspectives, which she helped make possible for hundreds of students during her time at World Learning. Her close friend Alvino Fantini recalls, “Barbara exemplified everything that World Learning is all about.” To ensure that the opportunities she valued so greatly would remain available to even greater numbers of deserving participants, she chose to join the Infinity Club with an unrestricted gift from her estate to World Learning.

In addition to other assets, Barbara left the organization her longtime Brattleboro home. By making a gift of real estate, she magnified the impact of her contribution and ensured that it will serve the World Learning community for years to come. In reflecting on Barbara’s legacy, World Learning’s Board Chair Tom Hiatt remarked, “We are incredibly grateful for Barbara’s gift, which celebrates her lifelong commitment to World Learning. Her generous gift will have a substantial ripple effect across our institution in ways we are only beginning to contemplate. We are both honored and inspired by her vision, her philanthropy, and her confidence in our work.”

By making a gift of real estate, you can create a significant benefit both for World Learning and for yourself. While supporting World Learning’s mission, you may save on taxes, increase your income, and/or reduce the burden of maintaining or selling your property. Gifts can be made with residential, commercial, or undeveloped real estate. For more information about gifts of real estate, please contact Director of Advancement Tom Navin at 802 258-3173.
Our Impact Depends on Your Support

The transformative impact that World Learning has on the lives of participants is only possible thanks to the support of our community. Your contribution enables us to pursue partnerships in additional countries, expand and improve our program offerings, and provide vital financial support for an increasingly diverse population of learners. Help us to build on our successes by making your gift to World Learning at www.worldlearning.org/support-us.

Global Loyalty Circle

Consistent donors are the foundation of World Learning’s success and enable us to carry out our mission to empower people and strengthen institutions through our education, development, and exchange programs. To recognize this support, World Learning is launching a new appreciation society: The Global Loyalty Circle.

Beginning in fiscal year 2015, The Global Loyalty Circle will celebrate and recognize alumni, parents, and friends who have provided critical support to World Learning for at least three consecutive fiscal years (our fiscal year runs from July 1 to June 30). The size of the gift does not matter—what is important is the loyalty demonstrated through steady annual gifts.

Is Your Name Missing?

The 2014 Annual Report recognizes donations made between July 1, 2013, and June 30, 2014. If you think your name should have been included this year, contact the Office of Advancement at 802 258-3173, or email us at giving@worldlearning.org.

World Learning shares information in a variety of ways. Please provide your email, mailing address, and telephone number to the Office of Advancement at giving@worldlearning.org. We encourage you to follow us on Facebook and Twitter@Worldlearning for more frequent updates.