



April 2022

SUIHAA Newsletter

A Message from the SUIHAA Committee Executive

We hope that you have had an enjoyable beginning to 2022. With the easing of COVID restrictions in many places, we hope there will be more opportunities for you to travel and to physically meet with family and friends. Dennis and his wife, Leila, will take advantage of this to travel to Australia in September. Look for plans for SUIHAA to host an in-person gathering of alumni during that time (the first in more than two years!). The SUIHAA AGM will also be held via Zoom in early September.

*More SUIHAA
activities on the
way in 2022*

We know that not all alumni can easily get to Sydney, even without COVID restrictions. Now that virtual gatherings are easy to arrange and everyone is used to seeing each other as heads in little boxes on a computer monitor, we hope to offer a virtual Walter Westman Lecture later in the year or in 2023. The Westman Lecture is in honour of an early resident at IH, whose passion was science, humanity and the environment. The presentation will focus on some aspect of his interest.

Also, now that you are more “out and about”, get those cameras ready for the updated version of the Rosemary Barrick Photography Competition! There will still be cash prizes, and the best of the photos will be featured on the SUIHAA Facebook page and in the newsletter. More information will be in the next newsletter in June or July.

As we said in the last newsletter, we would love to hear from you regarding your latest activities to put in future messages—see recent correspondence with Pauline Lyle-Smith in this update below. Please send us the information, including a photo or two, or post it on the SUIHAA Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/suihaa>.

All the best for the next few months,

Dennis Schatz (*SUIHAA President*)
James Kane (*SUIHAA Secretary*)
Brittany Ridley (*SUIHAA Treasurer*)

SUIHAA Committee Update

SUIHAA held its most recent committee meeting on 26 March via Zoom. Committee members were pleased to welcome Margaret Lemoh on board after she generously agreed to accept the role of Bo Convenor. We are all very grateful to Margaret for her ongoing work in this role. For more, read on below for Margaret's update on the Bo Children's Hospital.

*News from the
SUIHAA
Committee*

Unfortunately, Brian Farmer has since stepped down from the Committee. The Executive wishes to thank Brian for his valued contributions to SUIHAA discussions over the past five months.

Several vacancies remain on the SUIHAA Committee. In accordance with the SUIHAA Constitution (Section 5b), up to five additional alumni may join as General Committee Members. **We are particularly looking for help in organising the virtual Walter Westman Lecture and in connecting with IH alumni from ALL generations (1967–2020).**

Please contact me at iamkane2@gmail.com or get in touch with SUIHAA on Facebook if you are interested in joining the Committee or would like to assist in some other way. We would love to hear from you!

James Kane (*SUIHAA Secretary*)

IH Fellows' Lunch

Following the closure of Sydney University International House in December 2020 and the continuing disruptive impact of the Covid-19 pandemic, there had not been an opportunity for the Sydney University International House Fellows to get together as a group since 2019. However, thanks to the Director of Women's College allowing us to hold an event in their beautiful new Sybil Centre, a group of 30 Fellows and friends convened on February 20 for lunch.



*Fellows' Lunch at
Women's College*

The event provided a very enjoyable get-together and opportunity to see old friends and fellow alumni. The highlight of the event was the

award of International House Fellowship to Jessica Carroll for the outstanding contribution she made to International House, including 18 years as Director until the House closed at the end of 2020. Two other past Directors, Graeme De Graaff and Ruth Shatford also attended, as did Prof Adam Bridgeman, Acting Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Education), Jackie Korhonen, Chair of International House Council, and other members of Council.

Following an excellent lunch, Ruth Shatford related to the audience the history of Jessica's connection to the International House and several anecdotes that highlighted the care and dedication with which Jessica approached the demanding role of Director. The award of certificate and Fellow's lapel pin was then made to Jessica by Jackie Korhonen. In responding, Jessica emphasised the important contributions that International House and its residents have made to the Sydney University community during its 53 years of operation, in particular the enhanced international understanding brought about by sharing of ideas and experiences between international and Australian students. She expressed the wish shared by all present that the redevelopment of the IH site would proceed smoothly in coming years.

Jessica Carroll
elected as Fellow of
International
House

Greg Houseman (*Deputy Chair, IH Council*)



Bo Children's Hospital Update

This year we are proud to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the opening of the Bo Children's Hospital on 2 June 2012. It has proved its worth, with over 30,000 children being treated since then. Without the loyal support of donors, we would never have reached this

milestone and made such a real difference to the health of children in Sierra Leone. Sadly, the founder, Nuli Lemoh, passed away in October last year, but his legacy continues.

It was SUIHAA that gave the initial impetus to the building of the hospital by taking it on as a project which would be an ongoing focus for alumni. Rotary clubs in Australia and the UK and the local Rotary Club of Bo subsequently provided funding and practical help to buy the land, build and equip the hospital. Apart from a temporary suspension due to COVID in 2020, the hospital has continued caring for local children.

We are steadily working to improve our services. This year we were able to buy new equipment for the laboratory and improve our diagnostic services. The groundwork for a more reliable internet connection has been laid and awaits delivery of necessary items delayed in the supply chain for completion. Our new Medical Superintendent, Francis Bangalie, a community health officer, has completed post-graduate surgical training and can carry out minor procedures on site instead of sending them to the main government hospital. We have two small buses for transport of staff and patients and two motorbikes used for vaccination programs in remote villages and administrative errands.

*Progress at the Bo
Children's
Hospital in Sierra
Leone*

The hospital is almost totally reliant on funds from donors. It participates in a vaccination program, a malaria prevention program and a malnutrition program which are government-funded but staff are not on the government payroll. Although the government has acknowledged the valuable contribution the hospital makes to child health, the mechanism for enabling the payment of staff salaries has so far been withheld.

Future plans are to construct a playground for children who are inpatients or visitors. We would also like to provide more ongoing training for our nursing and technical staff.

The support of SUIHAA remains vital for the future of the Bo Children's Hospital as we strive to maintain and improve its services. Thanks to all of you who have supported the hospital so far. Check our website: www.bochildrenshospital.org.au and our Facebook page for more information.

Margaret Lemoh (SUIHAA Bo Convenor)

IH Redevelopment Update

There is not much to report on this front since our January SUIHAA update. The Project Control Group (PCG) appointed to oversee the redevelopment of the IH site is still waiting on the refresh of the University's strategic plan that is currently in progress. Decisions about prioritisation of projects and funding mechanisms will depend on that plan.

*IH redevelopment
plans TBD*

As indicated in the last newsletter, the current thinking is for the University to explore two options: 1) a 500-bed standalone IH facility on the current site and 2) a 500–600-bed facility with IH integrated within a mixed-use development on the site. The expectation is that the PCG will be able to meet in the next few months. We hope to have more to share by the next newsletter in July.

Alumni News: Pauline Lyle-Smith

We recently heard from Pauline Lyle-Smith, who stayed in IH from 1969 to 1972 and received her law degree from Sydney University. She now lives in London after a number of years in Sydney and New York City. During her law career, she developed a unique and successful system of legal document exchange in the UK, Ireland and North America.

*Message from
Pauline Lyle-Smith*

Pauline is very active with the University of Sydney UK Alumni Association (USUKAA), including eight years as Chairman – see her in the centre front with the rest of the USUKAA council members in the first photo below. She now lives in the Fulham section of London with her husband Richard where she has been involved with various boards and committees to assist the local community and businesses. The second photo shows her with Richard at a reunion event at Trinity College, Dublin, where Richard went to university.

