



The American Friends  
of the London School of Economics  
**NEWSLETTER**

Spring, 1999

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## Alumnus Recognized for Economic Reporting

Second Polk Award for African-American Writer and Journalist

**K**eith Richburg, currently Hong Kong Bureau Chief for the Washington Post, together with two colleagues, has received the 1998 George Polk Award for Economic Reporting. This was for an eight-part series on the human consequences of the Asian economic crisis entitled "Shattered Lives", *Washington Post*, (March 10, 1999). It was the second time that Richburg, has received one of the awards for excellence in journalism, which were established in 1949 in honor of a CBS correspondent who was killed while covering the civil war in Greece.

Keith joined the *Washington Post* in 1980, upon graduation from the University of Michigan, where he was a Harry S. Truman Scholar. After a period reporting news in the nation's capital, he went to the LSE (MSc International Relations, 1984). After returning to the *Post* he subsequently became Southeast Asia Bureau Chief, based in Manila. Then, while based in Nairobi from 1991 to 1994, he too was exposed to the dangers of covering civil strife, in Somalia, Liberia and Rwanda.

It was for coverage of the conflict in Somalia that he won his first George Polk award in 1994, together with the National Association of Black Journalists' foreign reporting award. However, Richburg has not confined himself to the largely ephemeral task of news reports. He described his experiences of war, famine and disease across the continent, and his feelings and reactions to these wrenching events in a 1997 book entitled: *Out of America: A Black Man Confronts Africa*.

## R.H. Tawney Redux

Literary Executor Has Similar but Divergent Experiences

**E**minent social historian, R.H. Tawney, author of *Religion and the Rise of Capitalism* and *The Acquisitive Society*, was quoted in a recent Bagehot column for his critique of early Labour governments. He described them as too well-mannered and therefore ineffectual *Economist* (March 13, 1999). However, there is no evidence that Tawney, who was viewed by Beatrice Webb as a "scholar and a saint", was anything but a model of modesty, simplicity and good manners.

During the 2<sup>nd</sup> world war, Professor Tawney, who was associated with the LSE for nearly 40 years, and was then in his 60s, was assigned to the British Embassy in Washington, D.C. as a "labor advisor". The ambassador was not enthusiastic about the appointment, and Tawney found himself listed as a typist, and consigned to a gloomy hut on the embassy grounds. To add insult to injury, the cargo boat carrying his luggage was torpedoed. He and his wife Jeannette, sister of William Beveridge, who seem to have had little aptitude for financial management, replenished their wardrobe with second-hand clothes from the Christ Child thrift shop, which is still in business in Georgetown.

Tawney's literary executor speaks of his great uncle with affection and respect. He too is an historian, albeit military rather than social, and is currently assigned to the British Embassy. There, however, the similarities end. As Defence Attaché, Major General Charles Vyvyan, CBE, has an elegant office, and it seems unlikely that he will be resorting to a charity store to maintain his sartorial standards.

## Job Hunting or Seeking Career Advice?

On-line Networking Achieves Success

**B**ranchOut, the on-line service which is available for AFLSE members to network with graduates of other "Ivy League Plus" universities was recently cited as the means by which Michael Kim, a violinist turned finance and information management specialist, was assisted in finding a position in his new field. He received next day responses from five knowledgeable guides who were willing to offer advice or job suggestions *Time* (March 22, 1999).

The article pointed out that even in a boom economy, with unemployment at a record low, job hunting remains one of the most important rites of adult life - maybe now more than ever. The structure of working life has changed, and virtually everyone will be looking for a new job more often than in the past. Furthermore, the "old bromide" that it's not what you know but who you know, is ever more pertinent. According to the alumni career service director at Harvard Business School, 80% of their graduates find jobs via networking.

With 40,000 members, average age 36, half of whom have indicated that they are willing to serve as mentors, BranchOut provides an ideal forum for interacting with graduates in technology, financial services, banking, consulting, marketing, etc. If you are an AFLSE member, go to [www.BranchOut.com](http://www.BranchOut.com), find the "Ivy +" area and click on "sign me up".

Joy Dunkerley is monitoring use of the service and success rates. Send an e-mail to [dunkerlyj@aol.com](mailto:dunkerlyj@aol.com).

## AFLSE Scholarship News

### Distinguished Committee Narrows Applicant Pool for 1999-2000 Awards

Neal Ericsson reports that 166 applications were received for the three AFLSE scholarships which will be awarded for the 1999-2000 academic year. Neal, who chairs the Scholarship Committee, met with the five other members on March 5 and narrowed the initial pool down to 66. At a second meeting, on March 23, some two dozen candidates were chosen for the final selection, to be made in early April.

Awards are based on academic qualifications, financial need and career plans. Committee members, charged with the difficult process of selecting from the talented and deserving pool of applicants, include three former AFLSE awardees, each of whom is pursuing a successful professional career:

**Kerry Kircher**, (International Law, LL.M., 1984) is Deputy General Counsel to the U.S. House of Representatives. **Abigail Abrash**, who received an award to study Political Theory in 1991, is now with the Robert F. Kennedy Memorial Center for Human Rights, and **Leigh Rivenbank** (MSc in Comparative Government, 1987) is deputy editor of the *Federal Times*. Her AFLSE award enabled her to acquire both a British degree and spouse.

Other distinguished alumni on the committee are **Jeffrey Weinberg**, Legislative Attorney in the Office of Management and Budget, who spent an undergraduate year at the LSE, and **John Lively**, (MSc, Politics & Public Administration, 1971) who is Director of Administration and Finance at the Carnegie Institution of Washington. Chairman Ericsson, who is with the Federal Reserve Board, has an MSc, 1978, in Mathematical Economics and Econometrics, and a PhD, Economics, 1982, from the School.

The next issue of the Newsletter is scheduled for July. Please have your submissions to the Newsletter editor by June 10.

## AFLSE CHAPTER REPORTS

### ARIZONA

On February 15, **Arvind Singh** dined in Tucson with Reggie Simpson, Director of Alumni Relations at the LSE. She emphasized that the School is making a concerted effort to create a worldwide network of alumni, and is encouraging faculty and Board members, travelling to the U.S., to make themselves available to attend and speak at functions arranged by the various chapters. Meanwhile, Arvind asks that local alums contact him with a view to arranging an initial get-together.

### BOSTON

On Sunday, February 28<sup>th</sup>, members of the Boston Chapter enjoyed a sold-out performance of the Hasty Pudding Theatricals production of *I Get No Kick From Campaign*. The continued popularity of the event was evidenced by the overwhelming demand for tickets. Apologies to all who responded too late to be included. In future we hope to accommodate everyone!

On Sunday, May 23<sup>rd</sup>, come rain or shine, we will be holding an afternoon of *Tea and Croquet.....and Economics* at the home of **Mary Meier**. **David Warsch**, economics columnist at the *Boston Globe*, will be present for a light discussion of economic principles, off the croquet lawn, of course! Mark your calendars and watch for information to arrive in the mail.

In the meantime, the Boston Chapter continues to hold its informal networking nights on the second Thursday of the month. These gatherings at the Grafton Street Pub and Grille, 1280 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (just off Harvard Square), run from 6 p.m. to about 8 p.m. R.S.V.P.s are greatly appreciated. Please contact **Liz Wall** for more information about all activities.

SEE MAILING PAGE FOR  
CHAPTER LEADER CONTACT  
NUMBERS AND E-MAIL  
ADDRESSES

### CHICAGO

In February, the Chicago Chapter held a planning session at the Loop Campus of DePaul University to plan activities for 1999. Six alums came forward with ideas and volunteered to take the lead in planning events. Four others called to offer suggestions.

Three events are targeted for the year: a Spring event at the British Consulate, (**Dan Weil** and **Blair Sanford** coordinating); a Summer event at the Lincoln Park Pub, and a Fall event, featuring a guest speaker and reception, venue to be determined (**Louise Schwartz**, **Jerome Braun** assisting Blair with coordination).

On March 4, the Royal Oak Society provided the opportunity for AFLSE members to obtain invitations to a lecture given by H.R.H. The Prince Edward. He narrated and showed video and slide clips, on the *Restoration of Windsor Castle*, an astonishing enterprise. The Prince's only public lecture in Chicago, was given in the Arthur Rubloff Auditorium of the Art Institute of Chicago, and provided a very enjoyable evening for those who attended.

As always, members are invited to join in helping prepare and serve a meal to the homeless in the Humbolt Park area of the city. This takes place on the third Sunday afternoon/early evening of every month. Call **Blair** for more information.

### DENVER

On Thursday, April 1, alumni and friends in the Mile High City were invited to meet in the Wyncoop Brewing Company, 1634 18<sup>th</sup> Street, Denver, for an informal networking session. The Denver Chapter has also been offered the opportunity to affiliate with MBA alums of the top ten business schools, associated under the name *Denver Business Series* for various functions, discussions of current business affairs, and networking.

The first scheduled event was a presentation by **Andy Vail**, President, Vail Resorts Inc. to be held on Thursday, April 8. Contact **Timothy Quinn** or **Richard Banta** for news of upcoming activities.

## Chapter News contd.

### FLORIDA SOUTH

On April 26, South Florida alums will hold a "kick-off" event, from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. at the New River Center (Sun-Sentinel Building), 200 E. Las Olas Blvd, Fort Lauderdale. Robin Grenville Baylis, OBE, MVO, British Consul in Miami, will address members and guests, on *The Euro: A British Perspective*. Following the session there will be a wine and cheese reception. Contacts: **Layne Lott**, 954-769-7313 (day), **Katherine Scott**, 954-760-969 (evenings).

### MAINE

Members are spread throughout Northern New England, but chapter leader, **David Rudnick**, is enthusiastic about organizing local meetings for alums in Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont. There have been a number of volunteers to host such events and, with the onset of warmer weather, he encourages members to come out of hibernation. Mailings will be sent out when dates for events are set, and he hopes they will be well supported.

Call or e-mail David with ideas or offers of help.

### MINNEAPOLIS

**Blake Nixon**, a young associate with a venture capital firm, has volunteered to become chapter leader for Minneapolis and surrounding areas. He looks forward to creating a stimulating and mutually beneficial network of alums.

Blake is looking for others who are interested in getting involved in planning chapter activities or hosting events. Please contact him by phone or e-mail.

### NEW YORK

Our *Bordeaux Wine Tasting* on February 19 was a huge success! Many thanks to fellow alum **David Cohen**, who did a terrific job as educator and somelier for the evening. He led the enthusiastic crowd of more than 60 through the finer points of

French viticulture and wine appreciation. This continues as one of our most popular annual events.

On February 23, a dozen members of our chapter dined with Fiona Hodgson, Director of Development at the LSE, and Patrick Hawke-Smith, Manager of Foundation Relations. We enjoyed a great down-home dinner at Virgil's in midtown Manhattan, and a briefing on activities in Houghton Street.

On Monday, April 19, at 6:00p.m. we will co-host a lecture with the Penn Club of NYC. William Flynn, a former member of the international negotiating team, will speak on *Peacekeeping Efforts in Northern Ireland*.

We are firming up dates and details for our annual *Philharmonia in the Park* picnic in July. We are also planning another lecture series event for September.

Details or all our events, and lots of other news can be found on the New York Chapter listserver. All you need is an e-mail address. For help in subscribing to this free service contact Mark Stone: [LMStone@ibm.net](mailto:LMStone@ibm.net)

We also continue to hold our planning meeting/happy hour on the first Monday of every month at the Playwright Tavern, 202 West 49<sup>th</sup> Street (corner of 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue), on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor at 7:00 p.m. Meetings last about 45 minutes, and then we head downstairs for the happy hour or dinner. For information contact **John Casey** or **Deborah Tillman-Stone**.

### PHILADELPHIA

**Rich Stein** reports that a kick-off event, held in January at the Elephant and Castle Pub, attracted chapter members from as far as Princeton and central New Jersey. Alums enjoyed fish and chips, pints of real ale and other traditional English fare.

In February, we continued our tour of English hostelrys with dinner at the Dickens Inn, associated with one in the City of London. We were treated to an excellent meal of shepherd's pie and cider, followed by an exciting satellite broadcast of the England-France football match from Wembley Stadium.

A change of venue in March took us to the Philadelphia Museum of Art, to show the LSE's colors at the annual college night festivities. Alums were able to dine, take in a musical performance, and enjoy guided tours through the galleries, including one entitled *The God Who Spouts Beer!*

### SAN FRANCISCO

Activity in the Bay Area has been revived by **Patrick Hitchcock**, ably assisted by **Scott Warren**. A get-together in January at Jacks Cannery Bar, 2801 Leavenworth, in the Cannery, attracted some 15 enthusiastic alums. A meeting will now be held in the same location at 6:00 p.m. on the third Thursday of every month to network and plan future events.

### SEATTLE

**Ted Hoffman** reports that Seattle alums are to begin holding informal gatherings downtown at the Irish pub, Tir Na Nog, on the corner of Ist and Columbia. The first get-together will be on April 21 at 6:00 p.m. and on the third Wednesday of alternate months thereafter, i.e. June, August, October and December.

### WASHINGTON, DC

St Patrick's Day brought DC area alums together to share a pint or two at the Capitol City Brewing Company on Capitol Hill. LSE merchandise was given as door prizes.

On May 25, Ambassador Robert Hunter and Marc Grossman, Assistant Secretary of State for European and Canadian Affairs will address chapter members on NATO. The two LSE alumni have both represented the U.S. at the organization, the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of which, is at the end of April. Invitations will be mailed out.

**Matt Breitsfelder** and **Natalie Hanson**, chapter co-chairs, meet with a planning committee of active members in the piano bar of the Mayflower Hotel in downtown DC, on the first Tuesday of every month at 6:30 p.m. They welcome others to join them to share ideas and offer help with future events.

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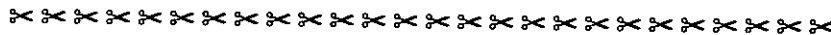
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