



Alumni and Friends  
of the London School of Economics/USA  
**NEWSLETTER**

Spring/Summer, 2001

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## Scholarship in Honor of Elizabeth Smith Brownstein Awarded

A special one-time scholarship has been given this year in honor of Elizabeth. Smith Brownstein, a former AFLSE President and a distinguished and active AFLSE Board member. The award is for one year of study at the LSE in the academic year 2001-2002. Mrs. Brownstein received her MSc in International Relations from the LSE in 1967.

The donation for this scholarship was made anonymously on the occasion of the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the AFLSE scholarship program, the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the AFLSE – now the school's largest alumni organization – and in recognition of Mrs. Brownstein's 25 years of service to the AFLSE.

As Executive Vice President under AFLSE President and former Senator Daniel Moynihan, Mrs. Brownstein was instrumental in setting up the organization's national office in Washington in 1980. This move was critical to the establishment of a professional administration for the AFLSE's then embryonic scholarship program. Since the establishment of the scholarship program, over 125 awards have been granted to American citizens or permanent residents.

Mrs. Brownstein's life-long interest in international relations and her decision to study at the LSE – the only institution to which she applied –

were intensified by her six years as director of the New York office of the Experiment in International Living, the country's oldest student exchange organization. During her award-winning career as a television researcher, writer and producer, she has worked with some of the medium's greatest journalists who sought to provide the American public with a greater understanding of America's role in the world, including Eric Sevareid, Martin Agronsky, Lawrence Spivak, and Edward R. Murrow's staff.

In October 1999, Simon & Schuster published Mrs. Brownstein's first book, *If This House Could Talk ...Historic Homes, Extraordinary Americans*. Her hope was to provide readers with a deeper understanding of America's complex and dramatic history, a critical element in our ability to fulfill wisely our global responsibilities as the world's only superpower.

### **The AFLSE Needs You!!!**

The AFLSE is always looking for members who want to take a more active role in this volunteer-led organization. Please consider volunteering to plan events, social gatherings, raise funds or start a local chapter. For contact information, please see the back page of this newsletter.

## LSE Centennial Fund and Foundation Update

By Fiona Hodgson, President, LSE Centennial Fund and CEO, LSE Foundation

The first half of 2001 has been exciting and productive for the New York based LSE Centennial Fund and Foundation. We have moved to new offices near the Empire State Building and are adding four new staff. Soon we will have three fundraisers, an office manager, and an events planner who will work with AFLSE chapters to coordinate faculty visits and events throughout the US and Canada.

The North American Campaign will be launched on Oct. 31<sup>st</sup> with a dinner in New York City, followed by a half-day seminar featuring LSE faculty. The dinner will be hosted by Paul Volcker, Honorary Chair of the Campaign, and Anthony Giddens, Director of the LSE. The four-year campaign goal is \$30+ million for student and academic support, research excellence, campus renovations, and endowment. We are recruiting regional committees throughout the US and Canada.

A quarterly Campaign Newsletter will be launched in June to chronicle our progress. In FY 2000-2001, the LSE Centennial Fund and Foundation raised \$3 million in gifts and pledges towards campaign priorities. Thanks to the support of alumni, foundations and corporations, LSE will remain an international intellectual leader. As Lord Meghnad Desai said recently: "Support your local global university—the LSE!"

For more information, you can reach me at [f.hodgson@lse.ac.uk](mailto:f.hodgson@lse.ac.uk) or (212) 851-2992.

## AFLSE CHAPTER REPORTS

*See mailing page for Chapter Leader contact numbers and e-mail address.*

### Boston

In mid-February, alumni and friends from as far away as northern New Hampshire and central Connecticut enjoyed a talk given by Professor Mary Kaldor on the topic of Global Governance and Civil Society. Dr. Kaldor is the program director of LSE's Centre for the Study of Global Governance. Her discussion focused on the range of research projects undertaken at the Centre, including the Global Civil Society Yearbook and her work on the Balkans and the characteristics of "new wars" and the role of humanitarian intervention. The talk, which was held at the Harvard Faculty Club, was organized in association with the LSE Foundation in New York. Thanks to all who participated in the event!

We continue to hold our informal networking gatherings on the second Thursday of each month from 6:00-8:00 p.m. at Harvard Gardens, 320 Cambridge Street, Boston. (Nearest T stop is Charles/MGH on the Red Line). These are intended as a means to connect alumni and friends of all ages socially and professionally. RSVPs are appreciated!

*-Liz Wall, Chair, Boston Chapter*

### Maine

In early April the Maine Chapter (which includes Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont) had its first gathering, a small one with just 3 attendees. A few others were interested in coming, but had scheduling conflicts. We met at a local Portland, Maine watering hole and had a good time. Talk of our great times at LSE and how we still have many good friends from that experience took up much of the gathering's time.

We expect to have our next get-together in early fall of this year. We are going to try and attract more people to the gathering as well as put together one or two events in the New Hampshire and Vermont areas. Increasing chapter membership remains goal number one and it is hoped by year's end to have increased our numbers by at least 100 percent! Please take the time and sign up to use the discussion boards at [www.aflse.org](http://www.aflse.org). You will see updates from our chapter as well as find many great networking opportunities on the site in general.

*-David A. Rudnick, Chair, Maine Chapter*

### New York

#### *Monthly Meetings*

Our monthly meeting *usually* occurs on the first Monday of the month. New members and recent grads are always welcome! With a variety of events coming up, we want your input! So come meet new (and old) friends at the Playwright Tavern, located at 202 West 49th Street, between Broadway and 7th Avenue. We meet at 7 p.m. on the third floor. The September meeting will be postponed to Monday the 10<sup>th</sup> due to the Labor Day holiday.

#### *Past Events*

- The NY Chapter joined the Oxford Alumni Association of New York (OAANY) for an evening with NY City Schools Chancellor Harold O. Levy on February 5<sup>th</sup> at the Princeton Club in Manhattan. His talk, "A New Vision for the New York City School System," touched on teachers' performance, accountability and quality.
- On February 26<sup>th</sup> the NY Chapter joined with the Young Alumni Assoc. of Oxford University for a mixer at the Heartland Brewery in midtown Manhattan, a great time for mingling and networking.
- Approximately 60 alumni and friends attended the NY Chapter Annual Wine Tasting on March 9<sup>th</sup>. This year's topic was a red wine competition between Italy & California and was sold out in advance. Many thanks to our host Mark Stone (M.Sc. '83) for another entertaining evening. Thanks also to our wine pourers and porters Leon, Gary, Deb, Donal, Jeremy and Michele.
- The NY Chapter was invited to join OAANY March 20 in midtown Manhattan for a talk by Hermione Lee, Goldsmiths' Professor of English Literature and a Fellow of New College, Oxford. Professor Lee is the acclaimed author of biographies of Elizabeth Bowen, Philip Roth, Willa Cather and, most recently, Virginia Woolf. She is now working on a biography of Edith Wharton. The title of her talk was "Woolf and Wharton: Writing the Lives of Literary Heroines."
- The NY Chapter Annual Pub Quiz on May 16<sup>th</sup> was also sold out. This year's Quizmaster was Jeremy Kahn, a winner or runner up in each of our previous pub quizzes.

#### *Summer Events in the Pipeline...*

- New Student Bon Voyage Party. Date, Place & Time to be determined. The LSE American Society (a student organization with over 200 members on the LSE campus) in conjunction with the AFLSE NY Chapter will be throwing a kick-off event for next year's crop of new students over the summer in New York. More information to follow.

## Chapter Updates, cont'd

- NY Philharmonic in Central Park. The New York Chapter of the AFLSE presents its annual evening in Central Park with the New York Philharmonic. Date: To be determined. Concert begins at 8 p.m. but we need to arrive early to secure a good spot! Location: The Great Lawn, Central Park. You can meet us at 7 p.m. at the Corner of West 81st Street and Central Park West. If you come earlier or later just look hard for the purple, black and gold balloons on the field. Bring food/beverages to share! The event is free and as always, friends and spouses are welcome!

### *NY Chapter Listserv Update*

We have over 500 people subscribed to the NY Chapter Listserv. If you are interested in subscribing feel free to contact me at [johncasey@lsealumni.com](mailto:johncasey@lsealumni.com).

*-John Casey, Chair, NYC Chapter*

## Philadelphia

The Philadelphia Chapter continues to hold monthly get-togethers at the Palladium (36<sup>th</sup> & Locust), on the University of Pennsylvania campus. New faces and old friends are always welcome!

In early April, the Philadelphia Chapter of AFLSE joined the British-American Business Council and the Japan-America Society for a luncheon at the Union League. Bill Emmott, editor of *The Economist* and author, provided after-lunch remarks on George W's first 100 days as seen from abroad.

In June, the Chapter is joining the Philadelphia Council of Business Economists for lunch at the Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia, and a talk by Warren "Pete" Musser, CEO of Safeguard Technologies, Inc. For more information on this event and others, contact Richard Stein, email: [richard\\_stein@lsealumni.com](mailto:richard_stein@lsealumni.com).

*-Rich Stein, Chair, Philadelphia Chapter*

## Seattle

I'm in the process of arranging several events for the Seattle group coming up later this year. First off, I'm looking to do a joint event with the local World Affairs Council. Later in the summer we will reprise our baseball outing to Safeco Field to see the league leading Mariners. In the Fall, I'm looking to start an annual Wine Tasting Evening. Local chapter members should look for an e-mail from me in the next couple of weeks with dates.

*-Ted Hoffman, Chair, Seattle Chapter*

## Washington, DC

After a busy fall and winter program, the Washington, DC chapter has had a relatively light schedule in recent weeks. Luxembourg Ambassador to the United States Arlette Conzemius hosted the group at the Embassy in February and led a discussion of transatlantic issues and Luxembourg's place within the EU, followed by some good questions and fine cuisine. The chapter also hosted its second career counseling event in February, where Executive Recruiter Zbigniew Rurak was generous enough to share his insights on job hunting and other career development issues.

In late April the DC chapter hosted a home-buying seminar for those looking to venture into the very tight Washington-area home market and those wishing to take advantage of the Federal Reserve's recent efforts to lower interest rates by refinancing their existing mortgage. The panel included realtors, home inspection experts and other LSE alums involved in housing issues. Finally, on May 15<sup>th</sup> the DC chapter held an event on Capitol Hill where LSE alum and new member of Congress Mark Steven Kirk (R-Illinois) discussed federal tax and budget issues and how they might affect the global economy.

*-Mike O'Malley and Gary Kleiman, Co-Chairs, Washington, DC Chapter*

## Other News . . .

- ❖ **Sanford "Sandy" Unger** has been named the 10<sup>th</sup> president of Goucher College. A former member of the AFLSE scholarship committee, Sandy has been the director of the Voice of America since 1999 and a dean of the School of Communication at the American University from 1986 until 1999.
- ❖ **Norman Dorsen**, Stokes Professor of Law at New York University, was honored in October by the Society of American Law Teachers for his role as their founding president. Professor Dorsen was also presented with the Eleanor Roosevelt Award for Human Rights by President Clinton for promoting and protecting human rights in the US and around the world.
- ❖ **Junichiro Koizumi**, Japan's new prime minister, was a post-graduate student at the LSE in the 1960s. His father died in the midst of his studies and he returned to Japan to run for his father's seat in Parliament (which he lost). In numerous news articles, Mr. Koizumi has fondly mentioned his days at the LSE.

# President's Report

By Ann Imlah Schneider

The AFLSE's thirtieth year, just passed, brought us many happy developments. This report will describe some of them, noting first off how fortunate the AFLSE is to have many devoted volunteers who have made all these things happen. I cannot thank them enough for all their hard work during the year just completed.

As the year began, issues of organization topped our agenda, with many recommendations from the Mission and Management ("M&M") Committee, led by Leon Desbrow and including Natalie Hanson and Mike O'Malley. The Board adopted our new name (now "Alumni and Friends of the London School of Economics/USA") to make clearer that we want to include all LSE alumni and friends who happen to live in the USA. We also changed our Bylaws to give more voice to chapters' interests and to increase participation nationwide; the new Bylaws are in the back of your Directory. Bob Weinberg, David Sahr, and Liz Wall contributed greatly to that effort.

The third focus of the M&M Committee was "business practices." We now have an audit committee, to review our operations on an annual basis. Our accounts have been further fine-tuned, giving us a much better handle on our budgeting process, with the result that we emerged from the Y2K with our administrative expenses a bit less than our income, for the first time in several years. Belt-tightening was one factor in balancing our budget; also very important were contributions, particularly from LSE to cover our database management expenses and our recruitment efforts.

We had many ideas for celebrating our 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary, and were able to follow through with a very well-attended reception at the British Embassy in October. The festivities were much enhanced by our visitors from the LSE – Tony Giddens and Mary Blair – and by Fiona Hodgson from the LSE Foundation in New York. The occasion was also the moment to honor Jane Plakias who has devotedly helped the AFLSE for more than 20 years, providing information for prospective students and administering the AFLSE scholarship program.

Many of our activities have been carried on as usual. Our scholarship program continues to be very popular, and you will read more about it elsewhere in this Newsletter. Our Newsletter is expanded to six pages, including some advertising (income!), to cover more news relevant to members. Many members are taking advantage of subscription discounts. Most importantly, chapter activities have engaged members (current and potential) in a variety of

social and professionally-oriented activities in many parts of the U.S. Three cheers for the chapter heads!

On several other fronts AFLSE experienced forward movement in the past year:

- *Career development:* Chapter meetings and the DC and NY ListServers fostered many useful info exchanges; Joy Dunkerley would welcome suggestions about further initiatives.
- *The AFLSE Web site:* Please take a look ([www.aflse.org](http://www.aflse.org)) and give Mark Stone or Sarah Lippitt your thoughts (and thanks!). It is an important tool for the scholarship program, for recruiting members, and for member communication.
- *ListServers:* Again, Mark has nudged us toward modernity. We now have active ListServers for New York and the DC area which contribute to our networking activities and save us a great deal of time and money in getting communications to members.
- *Other use of e-mail:* Most of the Y2K membership renewal reminders went by e-mail, much reducing our mailing costs. Regular mail follow-up is still needed, but we hope to use the approach more as time goes on.
- *Relations with the LSE:* Discussions with Mary Blair, LSE's new Director of Alumni Relations and Development, Fiona Hodgson of the LSE Foundation in New York, and several others, have explored a variety of ways in which we can be mutually supportive.
- *Credit Card:* After many years of discussion within the AFLSE and at the LSE, and with the help of the LSE Foundation, the LSE affinity credit card is now a reality. We are hopeful that more alumni will respond to the solicitations in coming months (see the separate note on this) and that all who have LSE credit cards will use them, as a small way to contribute to covering our expenses.

Please let us know if you have suggestions on any of these matters– or if you think of other issues needing attention as we work on strengthening our activities and membership base. I thank you for your support of the AFLSE in its 30<sup>th</sup> year and for the years ahead!

## Scholarship Awardees Report from London

The AFLSE's current scholarship awardees, **Ajay Chanayil** (MSc in Regional and Urban Planning), **Mary Greipp** (MSc in Health Policy, Planning, and Financing), and **Igor Gluhovsky** (MSc in Global Market Economics), recently wrote to the scholarship office describing life as an LSE student today. Here are some excerpts from their reports:

- All three scholarship recipients expressed their extreme gratitude for the awards and the chance to study at the LSE. As Igor Gluhovsky said "this has been an unforgettable experience and it would not have been possible without the support of the AFLSE."
- LSE is "a multicultural experience that is hard to match anywhere else in the world." In addition to the diverse backgrounds of the students and faculty, the school has hosted speakers this year from all over the world, including George Soros, Nelson Mandela, and Vincente Fox.
- "Navigating your way around the LSE 'campus' can be tricky at first," particularly because the campus map does not use the actual names of the buildings.
- The "fast-paced" lectures tend to be large, while the seminars range from 10-20 students. The reading lists are "notorious" for their length, but students learn not to feel overwhelmed. The awardees report that they quickly discovered how much reading was truly necessary. They also report that the new library is beautiful and is filling up slowly with books.
- Finding housing is one of the most stressful aspects of preparing to go to London. As in previous years, the awardees raved about the London Goodenough Trust. The Trust's two houses, William Goodenough House and London House, are "absolutely amazing ... the best graduate residences in London." The Trust's houses offer incredible people, an amazing range of clubs and activities, and fabulous central locations.

The Scholarship Committee looks forward to hearing more about the awardees' LSE experiences in their final reports to be sent later this year.

## Credit Card to Benefit AFLSE Now Available

The LSE Foundation MBNA No-Annual-Fee and low interest rate Platinum Plus MasterCard credit card is now available to AFLSE members. You can make an application via telephone, a secure online application or by mail application.

This card will help generate vital funding in support of the AFLSE and LSE Foundation since MBNA makes a contribution for every new account that is opened and when each account is renewed. And they make an additional contribution every time the card is used to make a purchase.

Some of you will have already received a solicitation form from MBNA to apply for the card. Another mailing is scheduled for August. If you do not have a mailed solicitation you may apply for the LSE credit card in the following ways:

- Telephone 888-227-3717 and be sure to mention the LSE Foundation Card;
- Through the Internet by clicking on <http://www.webapply.com/afise-ycwk>;
- By writing to: Platinum Plus Acceptance Center, P.O. Box 981052, El Paso TX 79998-9935.

For further information please contact Leon Desbrow at [Leondesbrow@home.com](mailto:Leondesbrow@home.com)

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For information about studying at LSE and AFLSE scholarship information, please contact: Jane P. Plakias, 733 15<sup>th</sup> Street, NW, Suite 700, Washington, DC 20005; Tel. (202) 347-3232

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