

● Chelsea Robles

📌 *IFUW Winifred Cullis Grant 2011/2012*

I was extremely honoured to receive the Winifred Cullis Grant for 2011-2012. The grant supported the completion of my doctoral field work in Bhutan, where I carried out qualitative research on education policy and practice - examining the role of education in processes of social change. My fieldwork involved a total of 71 interviews with education policy makers, education leaders and teachers. I also carried out observations of a subset of the interviewed teachers in order to understand how they mediate the tensions, if any, between 'traditional' and 'modern' world views. I am now nearing the completion of my PhD at the University of Oxford in International and Comparative Education and would sincerely like to thank IFUW for making my field work possible. My study would not have been possible without the generous support of IFUW. I hope to build upon my doctoral research and continue to contribute to research on the relationship between educational and social development upon completion of my degree. Currently, I am applying for post-doctoral research and other positions in the field of education.

● Dr. Tirhas T. Habtu

📌 *IFUW Ida Smedley MacLean Fellowship 2011/2012*



I finished my PhD studies with Great Distinction in December 2012. Certainly, winning an IFUW grant to work on Gender Equality and the Political Participation of Women in Eritrea had a big impact on my life and career path. Had it not been for the IFUW award, I would not have finished my studies as planned. Being a PhD holder also

meant that I could choose which career path to pursue in the future. At the moment I am a full-time mother to a baby boy born on 23 June 2012. Despite that, I have managed to publish an excerpt of my PhD research in a journal; and continue to highlight the situation of women in Eritrea in formal and informal settings. In 2014, I aim to start a career with either international organisations or in academia, in addition to continuing my activism work about the situation of women in Eritrea.



Making a Difference: IFUW Fellowships & Grants

Stories from Past Winners



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Making a Difference: IFUW Fellowships & Grants

Angela Erasmuson (née Ramsay)

IFUW Grant 1974

The IFUW grant enabled me to do research overseas for eighteen months. The techniques I learnt there were used in my research jobs for the next ten years in New Zealand. During maternity leave, the research institute became disestablished and I subsequently took up my present occupation as a music teacher. www.angelamusicteacher.com

Desiree Castillejos

IFUW Dorothy Leet Grant 2000/2001

I am Vice President of Corporate Development at Persistent Systems, provider of services specialising in software product and technology innovation. I am responsible for the company's Merger and Acquisitions (M&A). I have led more than ten transactions in the last three years, contributing to Persistent's robust high double-digit growth.



Prior to that, I was Director of Strategy and Alliances at Alcatel-Lucent. I held a number of positions in strategic planning and general management at Alcatel-Lucent; I managed large IT and telecom projects at Orange Business, Peugeot and Aguas Argentinas, a subsidiary of GDF Suez.

I received my MBA in finance from The Wharton School, where I was the recipient of the Dorothy Leet Grant of the International Federation of University Women (IFUW). I also have an Engineering Degree from the Université de Technologie de Compiègne, in France. I currently serve on the Board of the Wharton Alumni Club of New Jersey and on the Board of the Young Science Achievers Program, a non-profit organisation dedicated to promoting Science and Engineering with minority students. I have extensive international experience, having lived and worked in Latin America, Europe, North America and India. I currently reside in the US with my family.

Sabrina Taylor, PhD

CFUWA. Vibert Douglas Fellowship Recipient 2005

I received an A. Vibert Douglas Fellowship in 2005 at a critical juncture during my PhD at the University of Otago in New Zealand (Zoology), which I attended specifically for its programme in conservation genetics. My two-year scholarship from the Canadian Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC) was finished but I still had a year left to finish my thesis research on the conservation genetics of New Zealand saddlebacks and robins. I was ineligible for New Zealand awards because I was not a citizen, and I was ineligible for many Canadian awards because I was not at a Canadian university or studying Canadian species.

Without the support of the A. Vibert Douglas Fellowship, and its recognition of academic support without borders, I would have had to work, an option that would certainly have delayed the completion of my degree and limited the number of papers that I was able to publish. Fortunately, support from the IFUW meant that I was able to focus on my research and finish on time with eight papers published. In science, as many are doubtless aware, academic success is mostly judged on publications, so getting these papers published was crucial to my future success.

Following my PhD, I successfully competed for an NSERC Post-doctoral Fellowship at the University of British Columbia, and halfway through this post doctorate, I was hired for a tenure-track faculty position at Louisiana State University, a job I still have and love. I currently supervise two PhD and two MSc students who work on the conservation genetics of red wolves, gopher tortoises, Bachman's sparrows, and mottled ducks, a diverse assortment of species with interesting problems ranging from habitat fragmentation to hybridization.

I am very cognisant of the funding gap that IFUW filled, and feel that, ultimately, the funding provided by IFUW helped me to establish a fulfilling career. Thank you IFUW!

Susanne Wessendorf

BFWG Crosby Hall Fellowship 2005/2006

I am a Post-doctoral Research Fellow, currently working on patterns of 'super diversity' in a London neighbourhood. I hold a DPhil in Social Anthropology from Oxford University. My thesis focused on the interrelationship of integration and transnationalism among second-generation Italians in Switzerland. I have a Masters of Philosophy from the University of Basle, Switzerland, in Social Anthropology, European Anthropology and Linguistics, and have been an assistant lecturer at the Institute of Social Anthropology, University of Berne, Switzerland.

Dragana Jankovic

IFUW Ida Smedley MacLean Fellowship 2005

I received my IFUW Recognition Award in 2005 when I was supposed to finish my PhD. Unfortunately, all sorts of bad events (i.e. my mother's and my illnesses, the passing away of my mother, change of advisor and his new ideas of changing my PhD after five years of work on it, no job in my country and so on) interfered in my life and completely changed my life and the career ambitions that I had. Due to all these events, I was not able to concentrate and finish my work as I wanted. However, I did not give up. I am still trying to complete the writing of the thesis, since I have changed the content of it several times.

Cristina Cammarano

IFUW Recognition Award 2008/2009

Thanks to the precious support I received in 2008/2009, I was able to complete my doctorate, awarded in 2012 by Columbia University Teachers College. My dissertation is titled "The Philosophically Educated Teacher as Traveler". I have acknowledged IFUW in my introductory remarks and look forward to mentioning its support in the first article drawn from my dissertation, on which I am currently working.

In the last year before my graduation I had been hired as an instructor in my Department of Arts and Humanities. After I received my degree, I became a lecturer. I teach classes in Philosophy of Education, Teacher Education and Ethics with a focus on themes of diversity and dialogue. My dream is to go back to Europe and keep working there in the field of Educational Foundations and Teacher Development, with the purpose of preparing teachers and educators for our increasingly diverse reality.