

www.raleighinternational.org

CONNECTIONS

Raleigh International Alumni Magazine

Spring 2016



Raleigh Nepal

How young leaders are rebuilding their country

Family matters

A tale of Raleigh through the generations

Global Conference 2016

Will you join us in London on September 10th?

Final word

How Libby Powell went from rations to Radar

Raleigh
Raleigh
International

Raleigh International connects communities wanting to improve their lives and their environments with passionate people from around the world who want to take positive action. Thanks to you, we have created a global community of more than 40,000 inspiring and inspired people.

We believe, and you have seen, that when local communities and young people work side by side, it empowers them. And it's the energy and motivation of empowered people that creates lasting change.

Whether you just returned from expedition, or you set sail with Operation Drake nearly 40 years ago – we would love you to stay involved with Raleigh. This magazine is full of ways to do that. Whether connecting with other alumni, inspiring young people to volunteer, or fundraising for our work, you can be as active as you like.

Our vision is a world in which people live and work together as a global community to build a sustainable future. Together, we can make this vision a reality.

THIS ISSUE OF CONNECTIONS IS PRODUCED BY



Mike Butcher
As Senior Communications Officer, Mike finds ways for alumni to stay connected with us, including overseeing the production of this magazine. He also spends time spreading the word about Raleigh in the media.



Shalini Rawley
Content Officer, Shalini, liaises with local project partners, staff and volunteers to source the best stories and images from our projects. She also made several editorial contributions to this magazine.



Madeleine Somerfield
Madeleine manages Raleigh's visual identity, overseeing photography and design. She works with our photographers to capture Raleigh in the field, designs and manages design to capture the spirit of Raleigh in all of our materials.



Jamie Baird
Jamie is our Communications and PR Intern, and provides support across the team. He manages case studies, writes material for our website and supports alumni to share their stories in the media.



Hannah Richards
As Communications Manager, Hannah oversees our communications activities, from getting the right stories to publishing the finished articles. She makes sure that the stories we tell bring out what is so special about Raleigh and the way that we work.

CONNECT

Website www.raleighinternational.org/raleigh-alumni
Blog www.raleighinternational.org/ri-blogs/alumni
Twitter @Raleigh_
Facebook www.facebook.com/raleighinternational
Instagram RaleighInternational
LinkedIn Raleigh International Alumni
Email alumni@raleighinternational.org
Phone +44 (0) 20 7183 1270



This issue:
All images © Raleigh International unless otherwise stated
Editor: Mike Butcher
Design: Madeleine Somerfield
Printing: nine8nine
Cover photo: Saraya Cortaville



This magazine is printed on FSC certified paper. Please recycle this magazine.



Raleigh International Trust is a registered charity no. 1047653 (England and Wales) and no. SCO40023 (Scotland) and a company limited by guarantee registration no. 3059479.



WELCOME

“...Nepali youth are coming together as Raleigh volunteers in order to rebuild their country.”



Since February, Raleigh volunteers have been working alongside rural communities in Nepal to help them become resilient to the challenges that lie ahead. As the reconstruction efforts continue following the earthquake, it has never been more important for us to stand side by side with Nepal. On page 8 we shine a spotlight on the Nepali youth who are coming together as Raleigh volunteers in order to rebuild their country.

Since our last Connections, we worked closely with the Overseas Development Institute to celebrate youth entrepreneurship. We teamed up with Google staff to lend their expertise to aspiring entrepreneurs in Nicaragua. We watched with pride, as an alumnus became the first official British astronaut to work on the International Space Station. We saw active citizenship in action as our alumni came together at summits in Malaysian Borneo, Tanzania and the UK.

Looking ahead, we are delighted to invite you to our 2016 Global Conference, which will take place in London on September 10th. The conference is a chance to connect with fellow alumni from around the world and celebrate the impact you have made as a global community. We will be emailing alumni with further information about the conference in the coming months. Could you help us to put the event together? Email E.Prince@raleighinternational.org if you think you could help. I very much look forward to seeing you there.

With thanks and best wishes,

CONTENTS

02

ON THE GROUND

Putting our impact on the map

04

NEWS

The latest exciting developments from around the world

07

FAMILY MATTERS

A Raleigh journey through the generations

08

PROJECT SPOTLIGHT

How young leaders are helping to rebuild Nepal

12

BUSINESS CLASS

Our work with corporate partners

13

ALUMNI ACTION

Highlights from our global community

16

THE FINAL WORD

How Libby Powell went from rations

What would you like to see in our next issue of Connections? Let us know by emailing alumni@raleighinternational.org

On the GROUND



NICARAGUA HYGIENE AND ENTERPRISE

Volunteers are raising awareness of good hygiene practices, whilst training local young entrepreneurs to establish businesses. As a result, young people are able to make a living from providing affordable eco-latrines for his community.



COSTA RICA PROTECTING ENDANGERED SPECIES

Volunteers are working with rangers in the national park of Piedras Blancas. Thanks to the construction of 5km of unobstructed trail, rangers can now more easily reach and protect the park's incredible flora and fauna.





NEPAL
**BUILDING
RESILIENT
COMMUNITIES**

Volunteers are working alongside rural communities in the state of Makwanpur to help them to rebuild and increase their resilience. Teams are working on projects to get safe water into communities, raising awareness about the importance of hygiene, and supporting young people to start businesses.



BORNEO
**ACCESSING
SAFE WATER**

Kampung Dimala has a regular clean water supply for the first time. Volunteers and community members installed a new gravity fed water system, providing safe water and sanitation. This is freeing up time for the people there to earn an income, attend school and provide care for their families.



TANZANIA
**HER RIGHT TO
EDUCATION**

To keep girls in education, it is vital for them to have a clean and safe place to wash and change while having their periods. In the Manyara region, volunteers are working with communities to construct new sanitation facilities in schools and to raise awareness about safe hygiene practice.

WANT MORE?

These are just a handful of the sustainable development projects that our teams have tackled since our last issue. Find out more at raleighinternational.org/blogs

NEWS

RALEIGH SET TO HOST GLOBAL CONFERENCE

On September 10th, London will host the Raleigh International Alumni Conference. Some of you will remember the successful 2012 Alumni Conference, From Boats to Biogas, which was attended by 300 alumni.

This year's event will once again bring together alumni from across the globe, including representatives from Raleigh's national societies. The conference will be a fantastic opportunity to network, to share ideas, and learn from people from across our history. Society members will also participate in a separate series of workshops and activities on September 8th and 9th.

Next year, we will be launching our 2017-20 strategy, and we would like you to work with us to create it. At the Conference, we will update you about our plans, and ask for your input for this exciting upcoming period.

Would you like to be involved in putting this year's event together? Help us to organise a compelling programme involving super staff and alumni, past and present. Please contact Emily Prince, our Alumni and Donor Development Manager, at e.prince@raleighinternational.org or phone **+44 (0)20 7183 1290** to express your interest.

Invitations and details will follow in the coming weeks, so save the date!

For more general information, make sure you check our website for further announcements, subscribe to our bi-monthly Alumni Newsletter or email alumni@raleighinternational.org

COULD YOU HELP US TO ORGANISE THE CONFERENCE?
EMAIL [E.PRINCE@RALEIGHINTERNATIONAL.ORG](mailto:e.prince@raleighinternational.org)



TIM PEAKE MAKES HISTORY

In December, we watched with baited breath as proud Raleigh alumnus Tim Peake made history, becoming the first official British European Space Agency astronaut to launch into space. He is spending six months on the International Space Station with fellow international astronauts. Tim volunteered with Raleigh in Alaska in 1991, and is now keeping the Raleigh spirit alive by venturing to where few others have gone before. You never know where your Raleigh journey might take you...

We caught up with Tim before his launch, and you can see our exclusive interviews with him on our YouTube channel. Visit [youtube.com/RaleighInternational](https://www.youtube.com/RaleighInternational)

RALEIGH AND ODI CELEBRATE YOUTH ENTREPRENEURSHIP

A report carried out by the Overseas Development Institute has found that pairing young volunteers with young people from rural communities can be an effective method of building pathways to entrepreneurship. The research found that by working with Raleigh volunteers, entrepreneurs in rural communities are exposed to different ways of thinking and exchanging information that helped them to gain the confidence and skills to start small businesses.

Young people from some of Nicaragua and Tanzania's hardest to reach communities are receiving focused support from volunteers over a six-month period to develop, implement and sustain a successful business. The small businesses they launch range from bakeries and milk production to home gyms.

Many young people have received funding to implement their businesses, including 19-year-old Yona from the village of Mibula. After his father's death as a young teenager, Yona left school to help his family with an income. "There are very few jobs in my village so everyone has to be self-employed," said Yona. "My business idea is selling animal feed. There is no such business in our village so this will help the community because they won't have to travel long distances anymore."

Development experts, academics, business leaders and young people gathered at a special event hosted by ODI to launch the report. Researchers found that the entrepreneurs developed 'business and life skills' that are crucial to their success. They also gained confidence, self-esteem, and communication skills through working with volunteers.

"Before the Raleigh volunteers came to Mibula, I couldn't get a clear career picture in my mind - they have provided me with the education and confidence to start my own business," said Yona. "In five to ten years I would like to be a great business man who will be able to change the community."

You can read the full report on our website, and see our feature video with Yona on our YouTube channel.



NEWVIC COMPLETE CIRCLE LINE WALK

Students from Newham Sixth Form College (NewVic) battled through the December snow to walk the entire route of London's Circle Line. The determined troop visited all 27 stations on the line in under twelve hours to raise awareness and funds for Raleigh.

NewVic are one of many organisations we work alongside as part of our Youth Partnership programme. Together we make participation a reality for young people that might not be able to volunteer due to personal or financial barriers. We look forward to welcoming some of the students on expedition this year where they will take their trekking to the next level!

Through our Youth Partnership programme, we ensure that young people from all walks of life can volunteer.

Donate to support a young person at raleighinternational.org/support-us

ACTIVE TANZANIAN CITIZENS OF THE FUTURE

Alumni from Raleigh International, Restless Development and VSO came together in Dar es Salaam for the Tanzanian Youth Conference in September. The conference provided a platform for 120 Tanzanian alumni to talk about their experiences of volunteering, their visions for the future and discuss their potential in the workforce.

“We can all be the changes we wish to see in the world, because we are the future,” said Raleigh alumnus Kennedy Mmari. “We are the ones who can make the global dream into a reality. No matter what we do, whether big or small, it can make a global impact. Everything you do with passion and commitment can make a change that we wish to see in the world.”



INTERNATIONAL CITIZEN SERVICE YOUTH CONFERENCE



In September, the largest ever gathering of world leaders took place at the UN General Assembly in New York, as the Global Goals came into effect. The goals aim to bring together nations to eradicate poverty for good.

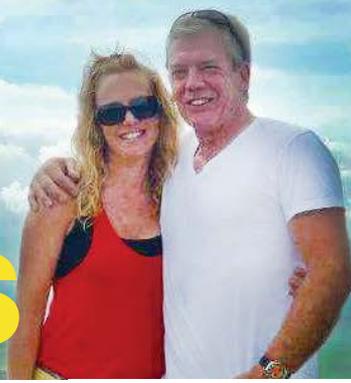
To mark the event 300 inspired International Citizen Service (ICS) alumni gathered at the Department for International Development, ready to share their views on how to shape the future of our world, and the issues that matter to them.

“So many young people feel frustrated,” said Ruth, who volunteered with Raleigh ICS in Nicaragua. “The conversation surrounding development and the pivotal role young people can play is more important than ever.”

“For me, The Youth Summit was a day of hope. As the Global Goals rev up into action, we can use the next fifteen years to move from apathy to active engagement. We will see the Global Goals plastered all over Facebook and Twitter, petitions about unjust issues created, and more volunteers on ICS projects. As long as the world can see young people’s potential, we will see change.”

“We can all be the changes we wish to see in the world, because we are the future”

Family MATTERS



In 1986, Geoff led a team as part of Operation Raleigh. Nearly 30 years on, his daughter, Sam, followed in his footsteps. For the Fords, like many of our 40,000 alumni, Raleigh will always be a family matter.

Geoff Ford was working as a police officer when he was recruited by Colonel John Blashford-Snell to help lead a team of 17 venturers in Papua New Guinea. He and his team worked to revamp a disused hospital on Daru Island.

“We set up first aid posts, helped to vaccinate people, and promoted health and wellbeing to the local community,” said Geoff. “Our work paved the way for doctors and eye specialists to fly into Daru and perform cataract operations on the locals. That was quite a marvellous thing to see. Witnessing people who’d been blind from birth suddenly be given their sight back was certainly an emotional experience.”

“That expedition reinforced many things for me, helped me to recognise strengths and weaknesses in myself and others, and highlighted the fact that with a positive team you can achieve anything you set your mind to.”

Geoff still carries the spirit of Raleigh today, as he now teaches people to navigate oceans as a sailing instructor. However, one of his greatest legacies has been inspiring his daughter, Sam, who was just four years old when he returned from expedition.

“Dad always used to tell stories from his expedition, of the people he’d met and the things he’d done,” said Sam. “Me and my brother would pull his slides out from the loft, and I was always in awe seeing what he’d achieved. From that, the idea of doing an expedition myself had always been at the back of my mind.”

It took almost 30 years for Sam to follow her father’s example. In 2014, with advice from her father to pack sweets, playing cards and an umbrella, Sam laced up her hiking boots and set off for Borneo as a Project Manager.

“I was always in awe seeing what he’d achieved. From that, the idea of doing an expedition myself had always been at the back of my mind.”

“We went out with 15 venturers and constructed a 5km gravity-fed water pipe system in the village of Abingkoi. We built a well to collect water and connected the pipes to the village to provide them with a fresh water supply. It was hard work; it’s not an Ikea flat-pack job!”

Over the years, much has changed at Raleigh. However, teamwork, leadership and personal learning are still at the heart of any expedition. For Sam, much like her father 28 years ago, her expedition altered her perspective for good.

“The experience opened my eyes to what’s important. When you bring everything down to basics you realise there should be simplicity in life, and I’ll carry that forward forever.”

How about inspiring a third generation to volunteer?

“My brother has just had a baby, so I think my Dad is already signing her up to an expedition,” said Sam. “Us Fords are a pretty get up and go family, so with Dad’s slideshows and my DVD collections of my Raleigh experience, she will be in good stead to do that!”



Project Spotlight: 

HOW NEPAL'S YOUNG LEADERS ARE REBUILDING THEIR COUNTRY





“...youth have the greatest potential in any society...”

On April 25th 2015 when the earthquake struck, Asha Budha Magar was reading the newspaper in her ground floor apartment.

“I started to feel a big movement and it felt like the walls were bending. I hid underneath the study table, and suddenly I found that the table was not above me any longer, it had moved back and was not protecting my head. It sounded like a blast, like bombs, because of the collapsing houses.”

The Nepal earthquakes only exacerbated the problems already facing young people like Asha. 40% of young people lack work opportunities and 300,000 enter the job market each year. “I love my country, but things are hard for young people here,” says Asha. “We have so many bad practices like the caste system. Some people are regarded as second-class citizens. In 20 years, I hope we do not have that system. Everyone in our society should be treated equally.”

Half a million homes were damaged, and rural communities were hit hardest. Many families lost livestock, for some their sole source of income. As the country works to recover from the earthquakes and to develop economically, young people



40%
of young people lack
work opportunities

300,000
people enter the job
market each year



in rural areas are increasingly turning towards establishing their own small businesses as their way to make a living.

While Asha's team of volunteers is supporting entrepreneurs, others are working on projects to improve access to safe water in communities and raising awareness about the importance of hygiene as part of the International Citizen Service (ICS) programme, which is led by VSO and funded by the UK government. All of this work, according to Asha, is supporting communities to withstand the economic challenges that lie ahead.

"If we want to see visible change we have to make people economically independent so they can send their children to school. I know that youth have the greatest potential in any society, and if you want to bring any positive changes in society then they are the best agents to achieve it," says Asha. "Volunteering and helping these young people is the best way of helping yourself. If you want to help yourself, go and help someone else."

"I really like the idea of active global citizenship. I really like what that means. Every individual is unique. Everyone has the capacity to become a leader. We just need to give them the right environment."





**JOIN ASHA.
VOLUNTEER IN
NEPAL:
RALEIGHINTERNATIONAL.
ORG/VOLUNTEER**

Asha is not alone. After beginning operations in January, the team in Nepal received over 300 applications from Nepali young people who want to volunteer and help build back their rural communities. “The response has been incredible,” says Priti Shrestha, Raleigh Nepal’s Youth Development Officer. “Within ten days we received 340 applications. Young Nepali people are determined to rebuild their country - they believe in power in numbers.”

“After the earthquake, people want to help each other,” says Asha. “Young people came out from their broken houses and helped wounded people. In my locality, people have started to help people who were in their houses and were destroyed. We are here to help each other,” says Asha.



From young people working at the grassroots, to decision makers in the Nepali government, there is a growing recognition that the creativity of young people in Nepal needs to be mobilised so they can lead the future of development. “We have to work with youth, and to empower youth so that they can take the initiative to build a harmonious global society that can bring sustainable development,” says Asha.

“I really like the idea of active global citizenship. I really like what that means. Every individual is unique. Everyone has the capacity to become a leader. We just need to give them the right environment.”

“Young Nepali people are determined to rebuild their country”



Business CLASS

GOOGLE VOLUNTEERS SHARE TOP TIPS IN NICARAGUA



“Entrepreneurs have been inspired to turn their business dreams into reality”

A good product, effective marketing and storytelling – these were three of the top tips shared by Google staff while working with young entrepreneurs in rural Nicaragua on a two-week programme. The travelling team of volunteers, who come from a variety of roles at Google, delivered workshops and provided one-on-one advice to young people on how to promote their businesses and build partnerships.

Walter Carazo Herrera lives in Aguas Calientes near Somoto. As a result of the training with the Googlers, he is now working with fellow community members to establish a garden centre. “The biggest problem that I have seen in my community is that young people do not seek out opportunities,” said Walter. “Often they do not know how to take advantage of them.”

“The support of the Google volunteers was immensely valuable for these young people,” said Jodie Hastie, Project Manager. “Entrepreneurs have been inspired to turn their business dreams into reality.”

“My business offers decorative plants and hand crafts carved in stone, which was able to happen thanks to the help of Google and Raleigh volunteers,” says Walter. “The Google staff have taught me how to set up an e-mail address for my business, how to better use Facebook and the importance of marketing for a business. I now know how to download apps on my phone to reach customers from this country and others through social media.”



RALEIGH TEAMS UP WITH REDSOFA

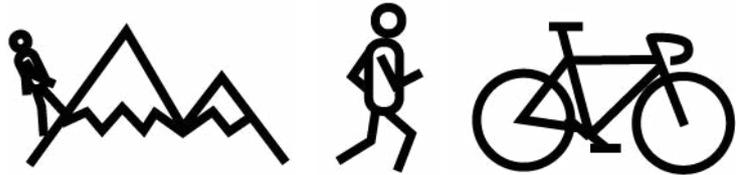
As we begin operations in Nepal this year, boutique recruitment agency RedSofa London will generously fund the places of ten Nepalese volunteers to join an expedition.

Volunteers from host countries are vital to any expedition. The initiative gives Nepalese youth an opportunity to help make their country more resilient for the challenges that lie ahead, and to become active citizens long after their placement. In addition, RedSofa will invest in a junior staff member to volunteer on Raleigh’s first ever expedition in Nepal this summer.

“We hope this will be the first partnership of many that will support our work in Nepal,” said Raleigh’s Business Development Strategist, James Sutton. “We would like to give RedSofa a warm welcome to the Raleigh family and thank them for being part of our mission to create lasting change through youth.”

Through collaborating with Raleigh, your business can help to play a part in creating lasting change in the world. Contact J.Sutton@raleighinternational.org for more information on corporate partnerships.

Alumni ACTION



TIM GOES TO THE EDGE FOR NEPALI VENTURERS



How many can claim to have run the entire length of Hadrian's Wall or climbed the height of Mount Everest? How many have set out to cycle the distance from Leeds to Liverpool?

We know one person who has conquered them all.

Tim Brayshaw, who is set to become a Project Manager in Nepal this summer, is taking fundraising for Raleigh to extremes and pushing himself to the very edge to raise funds for Nepali venturers to join him on expedition. He is aiming to complete 24 gruelling challenges, each of which must be completed within a 24-hour time limit.

Tim kicked off his fundraising challenge in December when he battled through blisters, fatigue and arm swelling to climb the equivalent height of Everest – scaling a climbing wall 1,475 times and ascending a total of 8,848 metres. “The atmosphere was fantastic. Everyone who helped on the day, friends and family all gathered to count me down and see me home,” said Tim.

Not only did Tim finish the climb - he did it in a world record 12 hours 48 minutes. He raised over £1,000 in the process, enough to help fund the place of a Nepali venturer on expedition. Tim's challenges have put him on track to smash the amazing fundraising target he has set himself of £5,000.

MARCUS PAYS IT FORWARD

Marcus Ramtohum has had a taste for adventure since his Raleigh expedition to Borneo in 2004. Therefore, it's no surprise to see Marcus jumping out of a plane to raise funds for young volunteers. “Eleven years ago the idea of having the opportunity to travel and grow was unusual for somebody from a working class background like me,” said Marcus. “It can be difficult to approach family and friends for donations and many young people may not have an existing network to do so.”

In August 2015, Marcus plummeted 10,000 feet and raised an incredible £800 in the process. The funds will go towards the place of volunteer Joy Tilbrook's 10-week expedition to Borneo in this spring. Joy has vowed to fundraise towards the place of another volunteer on her return. Now that's paying it forward!

Would you like to raise funds for Raleigh? Visit raleighinternational.org/support-us/fundraise-for-us for more information.





ABI'S TREE BEE SOCIETY TAKING FLIGHT



When Abigail Reade returned from volunteering in Nicaragua, she was inspired to start her own conservation trust. In the UK, the number of bees is declining due to use of pesticides and the effects of climate change, yet Abigail is striving to reverse the trend. The Tree Bee Society rescues and rehomes unwanted bumblebees and honeybees, and raises awareness of their crucial role in our ecosystem.

As a result of her achievements, Abigail has been co-opted to her local Parish Council in Burscough, Lancashire. "I'm hoping to work closely with young people and inject a bit of youthfulness into the council," said Abigail. "I think the councillor closest in age to me is about 25 years older!"

The Tree Bee Society also sells the honey from rescued bees, and produces skincare products including hand creams and beard oils.

Find out more about the Tree Bee Society at www.treebee.org.uk



BARBARA PROUD TO SPEAK AT BANGKOK SUMMIT

Alumna Bárbara López was selected to represent Nicaragua at the One Young World Summit late last year - where 1,300 extraordinary young leaders from 196 countries met in Bangkok to share their achievements.

Over four days, Barbara, who is now Raleigh Nicaragua WASHProject Manager, took part in sessions on education, environment, human rights, and leadership. She also delivered a speech on safe water in rural communities to 80 delegates.

Other speakers included Kofi Annan, Sir Bob Geldof and Nobel Peace Prize winner Muhammad Yunus. "Their speeches confirmed to me that nobody is born a leader, but that leadership is a skill that anyone can develop," said Barbara. "Young people do not have to be afraid of change, or afraid to demand they deserve better opportunities. Speaking with other young leaders awoke many ideas and generated a great desire in me to have an even greater impact on my country."



DAVID SADDLES UP FOR RALEIGH NZ

"What makes a 61-year-old IT guy cycle 1,000 miles in a month?" asks David Gandar, an alumni volunteer manager from New Zealand. "Seeing volunteers develop so much during their expedition. I want to allow Kiwi youth to have that experience."

Then again, David is not your average 61-year-old IT guy. In spring 2015, he led a team of volunteers in Borneo. He was so motivated by the environment and by youth taking action that he jumped on his bicycle to raise funds for the Raleigh NZ society. David aims to build on the work of alumni Sarah Whetter and Sally Cannan, who have been working to restart the society. They are hoping the funds raised through David's cycle will allow a young person from New Zealand to go on an expedition.

"By encouraging young volunteers to take part in expeditions we'll develop a generation of committed leaders," said David. "It's a kind of leadership we need more of today."





RALEIGH ASIA SOCIETIES COME TOGETHER IN BORNEO



In November, Raleigh societies from across Asia came together in Borneo to celebrate their achievements and share learning and best practice.

The 2015 Raleigh Asia Regional Conference (RARC) was hosted by the Raleigh Sabah Society in Kota Kinabalu. In addition to the Raleigh Borneo team, led by Country Director Dr Brandon Charleston, there was strong representation from China, Hong Kong, Kuala Lumpur, Singapore and Sabah societies.

From introduction weekends to attract and mentor new volunteers, to organising fundraising challenges or community and environmental projects – the scale and variety of our Asian societies' activities is astounding. A perfect example is Raleigh China, which has contributed 87,000 hours of volunteer service in the last 12 months.

Raleigh's Alumni Development Manager, Emily Prince, said: "My favourite moment was a conversation with the leaders of the Raleigh Sabah and Raleigh Kuala Lumpur societies, who are particularly interested in doing more fundraising to support Malaysian young people to take part in a Raleigh expedition. For me, this was a magical moment of Raleigh in action."



THANK YOU, OLI!

STAY IN TOUCH -
VISIT
RALEIGHINTERNATIONAL.ORG/STAY-INVOLVED, OR
EMAIL US AT
ALUMNI@RALEIGHINTERNATIONAL.ORG

Every now and then one of our alumni goes beyond the call of duty, and we would like to pay tribute to someone who fits that bill. Oli Husemeyer began her Raleigh journey in 1998 as a venturer in Belize, and has remained actively involved ever since.

Now in her position as HR Business Partner & International Project Manager at Google, Oli continues to share her passion for Raleigh. She works tirelessly to inspire Google staff to share their expertise with communities in Tanzania and Nicaragua through bespoke volunteering programmes. As a result, rural communities have gained invaluable business insights from some of Google's brightest minds.

"Oli's passion and belief that Raleigh opens up people to see the world in a different way has been more than proven by her years of dedicated volunteering for us," said Stacey Adams, Chief Executive. "I'm humbled by her commitment and enthusiasm to get volunteers engaged and inspired by Raleigh's work."

If you're reading this, Oli, we want to thank you for your dedication, hard work and support over the years.



It showed me that if you can channel young people's energy into the right spaces, you find out how massively dynamic they are. I used to think it was difficult to have anything in common with somebody 8,000 miles away, and thought the world was segmented into different tribes of people. Raleigh really dispelled that myth for me, and I've carried that into what I'm doing today without a doubt.

A very special set of circumstances have led me to where I am now, and the beginning of that was Raleigh. I paid off some of my expedition by doing temp work in an office, and one of them was an advertising company, which I thought was exciting. I liked the pace of the advertising world but I didn't like the values of that world and that time. The personality I was becoming was more aligned with Raleigh values of international development.

I set up Radar in 2010. Radar is a non-profit communications agency for marginalised and remote communities. We exclusively serve communities who have little or no voice in public dialogue. We offer training and develop technical tools for citizen-led content. Our belief is that everybody has a right to be heard on the issues that affect their lives, and that there is a huge amount of value in enabling insight from the least heard parts of society. That is often where the most newsworthy stories are, and where most of the truths about the complex world are held. For governments they are the most important communities to serve.

Our work is about making society better through information.

We work with young people, and I think more than ever, there is a shared belief that young people are relevant and they have special skills that lie in their youthfulness. I think the days when you had sad children on the front of magazines are gone – or going. A young person thriving against the odds is a much more compelling story rather than a young person who is struggling.

The great thing about young people is that they all have an active, exciting voice whether they're particularly vocal or whether they're waiting their turn. Once we get our heads around the fact that listening makes us better in what we do, rather than it being a charitable activity, that's when things will get interesting. Through the work that we do, and that Raleigh does, you see the benefit when youth have a platform. It is hugely important for society and the individual, and it has an exciting time to work with young people and hear what they have to say.

If I had one piece of advice for young people, it would be to assume you can do something until someone proves otherwise. That has been my premise ever since Raleigh. I always get into trouble, because I tell people 'yes, we can do it' and then I go away and work out how but it is a great premise for life. Even if you are risk averse or feel nervous about your capacity, every time you say yes you grow stronger and realise the

“Every time you say yes you grow stronger and realise the risks are less daunting”

risks are less daunting. That goes for personal relationships, careers, volunteering - the works. A big group of us have stayed very close throughout the last 13 years. People have so many opportunities these days, but not all of them have that legacy. One of my strongest support groups still comes from that campfire that we all sat round together.”



UNTIL NEXT TIME...

Don't just put this copy of Connections down. Get in touch with someone from your expedition that you haven't spoken to in years. Check out the alumni web pages and blog for ideas to get involved.

Or drop us a line.

**We'd love to hear from you.
alumni@raleighinternational.org**



Raleigh
International

DON'T MISS OUT ON THE LATEST RALEIGH EVENTS AND NEWS. VISIT OUR WEBSITE, UPDATE YOUR CONTACT DETAILS AND STAY CONNECTED