Fiona Watson, Political Adviser to the Special Representative of the Secretary General, Sergio Vieira de Mello, was one of the 22 peacekeepers killed in the terrorist attack on the UN headquarters in Baghdad on Tuesday 19th August 2003. It was close from the many moving tributes to Fiona that she was an outstanding young woman, with a rare combination of intellectual brilliance, vitality, compassion and humour. She was a high flyer who was destined for great things in her career, but her drive was well tempered by her close friendships and her strong connection to her family in Fife, Scotland. A marvellous ambassador for Scotland and a person who evoked respect and affection in equal measure wherever she went, Fiona is deeply mourned by all who knew her. To perpetuate Fiona’s memory and redress the sense of waste at her loss, the family, together with Heriot-Watt University where she completed a first class honours degree in languages, have established a memorial fund. Every year the fund will send a final year student from the University to take up an internship with the UN or an internship with a similar international organisation.

The winning student is an ambassador for their country and benefits personally and professionally from their experience of working in such an organisation with humanitarian interests.

Donations will contribute to The Fiona Watson Memorial Fund, an endowed fund which generates income on an annual basis. The Fund meets the annual award winner’s travel and accommodation costs during the internship, as well as supporting annual humanitarian grants specifically for students wishing to take part in humanitarian volunteering projects. The Fund is also supporting the Watson-Currie PhD over a three year period from 2015.

Registered as a UK charity, the Fiona Watson Memorial Fund can accept gifts from UK taxpayers made via Gift Aid.

Gifts can be made online at www.alumni.hw.ac.uk/FionaWatsonMemorial or by making your cheque payable to ‘The Fiona Watson Memorial Fund’ and mailing it to the address below.

The Fiona Watson Memorial Fund

THE FIONA WATSON MEMORIAL FUND

THE FIONA WATSON MEMORIAL FUND Newsletter 12 2016

Fiona Watson Memorial Fund is a Charity registered in Scotland, SCO37975

PREVIOUS FIONA WATSON MEMORIAL AWARD RECIPIENTS

2014 - ELEANOR PEACOCK
“I am working for Sixt, a car rental company, using my languages on a daily basis, and have recently taken a course in Dutch at Edinburgh University.”

2013 - NATALIE MACKAY
“In May I began working as an in-house German to English translator at STAR UK in Woking, where I can use the translation skills I acquired at Heriot-Watt University.”

2012 - COLLEEN TAIT
“I continue to work at the Royal Society of Edinburgh as part of the research awards team, and recently took over the administration of internal grants.”

2011 - CLAIRE GRANT
“I continue to work in education, having returned to Glasgow after a year of teaching English in Italy. I am currently a Learning Mentor for ICS Laos.”

2010 - KATE ROUGVIE
“I was awarded a Rotary International Peace Fellowship and have almost completed a Masters in Peace and Conflict at the University of Queensland, Australia.”

2009 - LORNA KERR
“I’m currently based in the north of Spain working as a Cambridge Speaking Examiner for the Upper Suite Exams, as well as continuing to work with York Idiomars.”

2008 - RHONA AMOS
“I am still in Geneva, where I combine my freelance work as a conference interpreter with a part-time role at the University of Geneva, a perfect balance for me.”

2007 - RICHARD CARBERRY
“I am a Manager in the Forensic Investigations team at KPMG in London. For most of the past year I have been working on a large investigation based in Paris.”

2006 - STUART KIRKBY
“I’m still working at Bentley in Cheshire and will shortly be moving to a new role in Finance which will focus on financial planning and forecasting.”

2005 - DAVID HENDERSON
“My partner and I took the holiday of a lifetime, travelling all the way around the world by land and sea over nine months, covering around 70,000 kilometres.”

2004 - GEMMA TRACEY
“I continue to work as a Senior Policy Adviser at Equality Challenge Unit, supporting Universities around the UK with their work advancing equality and diversity.”
“Perhaps the most valuable and cherished outcome from my experience are the many relationships I now have with people of all ages, from many disciplines and from all over the world. I am incredibly thankful for the kindness and generosity of spirit shown to me by my UN colleagues and the many, many ‘New Yorkers’ I have met throughout my time here.

In a professional capacity, I have gained valuable insight into a variety of new subject areas whilst learning first-hand the value of transferable skills. I pro-actively sourced and became involved in projects which were of interest to me and would be useful in my future career. More specifically, I have gained relevant work experience in finance and budget analysis, which should serve me well as I pursue a career in Accountancy. Additionally, I sought opportunities to practice my language skills and gained a new appreciation for the versatility of applying language learning; something which was greatly encouraged at Heriot-Watt. My knowledge of operations within the UN has deepened throughout my internship, as has my admiration for the inspirational staff who work tirelessly to make the world a safer, more harmonious place to live.

I will be forever grateful to the Watson family, the generous donors to the fund and everyone who has contributed to making this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity and unforgettable experience possible for me.”

Reports can be read at https://www.alumni.hw.ac.uk/FionaWatsonMemorial