IPDET 10th Anniversary
Tribute To:

Linda Morra Imas
Ray C. Rist
Karen Ginsberg
Mary Dixon
Barbara Levine
IPDET 2000000 and Tennnnnn

I have never known people as dedicated to enhancing the capacity and quality of the evaluation profession or as committed to the learning experience as Linda and Ray. I came to an active involvement in IPDET late in the process, about four years ago, when we at Carleton woke up to the idea that we could be doing so much more to build on IPDET than we were, and we began to develop the Graduate Diploma in Evaluation and link it to IPDET. Linda and Ray were, as always, creative, inventive, and supportive in this process and, although we still have a few kinks to work out, we have come a long way together in building additional capacity in evaluation education.

This could not have happened without Barbara and Mary, both of whom are the most organized and efficient individuals I have ever had the pleasure to work with. Barbara, I have particularly appreciated your good humour and smart diplomacy that have carried us through a few sticky situations. Merci! It is a pleasure to continue to work with Karen on Carleton’s next step in building the IPDET partnership – complementary distance learning.

From a Carleton perspective, I would also like to acknowledge the commitment and important contributions of several colleagues who helped make IPDET happen and who sustained and promoted it institutionally: Ted Jackson, who was part of the lift-off; the Deans of the Faculty of Public Affairs – Allan Maslove, Katherine Graham and John ApSimon – who have all been keen supporters; and Martin Abrams who consistently did such a great job as a core instructor. Thanks to these remarkable colleagues as well.

It has been a privilege to work with such superb professionals and wonderful people, and I look forward to continuing to do so. Well done and happy anniversary IPDET 2000000 and Tennnnnn (to anticipate Ray)!!

Susan Phillips
Director, School of Public Policy and Administration
Carleton University
Dear Ray and Linda:

Thanks a lot for spreading the word around and making IPDET such a success. I will always remember that WE ARE FAMILY! I wish to thank you both for taking on IDEAS and making it prosper.

To you Linda, colleague, friend, and someone that I admire, a special thank you for your support and your contribution to IPDET.

Marie-Hélène
Marie-Hélène Adrien
President Universalia
IPDET instructor (2004-2010)
IDEAS President (2005-2008)

Linda, Ray, Karen, Barbara and Mary,

It’s indeed been pleasure and privilege to join so many IPDETers from around the world in applauding your wonderful contributions.

I am most touched by the way Linda and Ray have reached out to keep me in the IPDET family, and the personal touch they add every time we meet. What impresses me is the ease with which they keep up the tempo, year after year, with such a large team. Hats off to these dear friends!

Reaching IPDET totally jet lagged and scrambled, I have often wondered how I would handle the next 36 hours. Karen, Barbara and Mary have always found ways to get my spirits up, with so much good cheer and warmth.

Suresh
Suresh Balakrishnan
Chief Technical Advisor
United Nations Development Programme
Vientiane, Lao PDR
Ray, Linda, Karen, Barbara, and Mary:

I remember being invited by Ray and Linda to attend a meeting to consider the viability of creating IPDET. Everybody thought it was a great idea, but I had the temerity to suggest that it would be too expensive and thus not “sustainable” over successive years. Fortunately, Linda and Ray had the wisdom to ignore my concerns. I have never been more delighted to be proven so wrong!

I want to applaud the vision, engineering, management, and administration that Ray, Linda, Karen, Barbara, and Mary have devoted to establishing IPDET, continuously improving it, and sustaining it. You made it look easy, but we know that was not the case. Here’s to IPDET 2025!

Gregg Jackson
Professor Emeritus
The George Washington University

Dear Linda, Ray, Barbara, Karen & Mary:

It is with great regret that I am unable to participate in the 10th Anniversary Celebration of IPDET. As one of the original IPDETERs, I had been looking forward to it and especially to recognize the tremendous work that you all have done to make IPDET a great success. IPDET has been an enriching part of my summers for the past decade.

Linda and Ray, your leadership is a model for any educational programs. First and foremost, your commitment to the students and the quality of instruction has ensured that hundreds of graduates from IPDET return to their home countries with skills, contacts, and good feelings about the role and importance of evaluation. Your enthusiasm is infectious! I simply do not know how you keep it up day after day, week after week. Mere mortals would be drained by program’s end; I have to assume that you two have special qualities not shared by the rest of us.

Barbara, Karen, & Mary, one of the joys of participating in IPDET is the organization, management and assistance that you provide instructors. You make things easy for us, cater to all of our idiosyncrasies, and still manage to smile and keep all things in calm order. The faculty is indebted to your great work and to the competent staff at Carleton.

Best wishes and congratulations to you all and wish I could be there to celebrate. I look forward to IPDET 2011.

Jed
James Edwin Kee
Professor of Public Policy & Public Administration
The George Washington University
A Mini-History of IPDET 2002-2005
And Tribute

By Karen Ginsberg

Ray and Linda have made three very significant contributions to the field of evaluation. First, they have created a new body of knowledge—a curriculum, a textbook, and articles—that is completely in tune with the times and challenges of evaluating development interventions. Second, their teaching and that of their colleagues has truly contributed to capacity-building in the developing world. And last, they have built and nurtured a new, energized community of development evaluation professionals drawn from everywhere in the world.

Anyone who has worked in large complex organizations understands how hard it is to create a vision such as they did, drive it through the approval levels of two rules-bound organizations (the World Bank and Carleton University), get others to buy into the vision when it does not yet have “legs,” and then actually make the vision work on the ground. This is exactly what Ray and Linda have done over a ten-year period.

As IPDET’s Program Manager from 2002-2005, I had the very good fortune to be in on the ground floor and to have a hand in the series of innovations and improvements that laid the foundation for today’s program. Much of how IPDET has evolved occurred because of our observations about what needed improvement, loads of feedback (both formal and informal), and because of new capacities that the World Bank or Carleton University brought to the table in any given year. I always looked forward to the “lessons learned” sessions, which Ray, Linda and I would have at the end of every IPDET. That is when our ideas were freshest about ways to enrich the program or the learning environments in the following year.

Here are some of the early innovations, which laid that foundation:

- **Small group work** was introduced to the core course to deepen learning by making it possible for participants to apply their new knowledge right away. Organized by the participants’ content area of interest, these groups enable participants to practice the development of an evaluation matrix for a real world case from a participant’s background materials. Using evaluators from the Canadian Evaluation Society, National Capitol Chapter, as commentators for the final small group presentations gave participants input from professionals outside the IPDET experience.
- The introduction of participant presentations in lunch hour **roundtables** was to maximize peer learning. This gave an opportunity for anyone with some unique or successful experience to share it.
- Knowing that people take information onboard in different ways, the **daily newsletter** quickly became an essential tool for keeping everyone in the loop about what was happening on any given day.
- Giving IPDET graduates one-year memberships to **IDEAS** enabled IPDET alumni to get a leg up on belonging to a professional association that was dedicated to advancing the interests of development evaluators.
• The introduction of the annual end-of-IPDET book sale permitted many participants to bring home meaningful resources materials at very affordable prices.

• Participant ID cards provided the means to create a class list with photos, which helped quickly to build the sense of community amongst the participants.

• Good logistics make for a positive learning environment. In addition to the many improvements to the pedagogy, every year saw improvements to management and marketing tools, including the development of the online application process and the database, which is used to manage everything from room allocations and dietary requirements to generating demographic profiles of each IPDET class across many variables.

• Registrar Mary Dixon and the students who make up the IPDET Secretariat are the heart, soul and legs of IPDET. Year over year, their diligence and joie de vivre at introducing participants to Canadian art, music, history and the physical beauty of Ottawa and the surrounding areas created many once-in-a-lifetime experiences for participants.

• Of course, our graduations, particularly the final graduation ceremony, gave us all an enormous sense of how much “community” had been built in the preceding few weeks. We learned to take particular care in reflecting the full cultural mosaic represented by our participants, including in the selection of menu and music.

• And because we were so aware of how much IPDET alumni wanted to preserve that sense of community, we started the IPDET listserv in the second or third year of the program. Moderated by Linda Morra-Imas, the listserv continues to be an excellent resource from which alumni can get immediate support for their evaluation challenges from IPDET faculty and colleagues.

In the world of development interventions where results are often illusive, IPDET has proven to be uniquely successful at building capacity where it was most needed and for the purpose that was most needed. It is to Ray and Linda’s credit that, over a ten-year period, at least eight development banks and agencies have shown their confidence in the program by offering scholarship funds which enable those who can most benefit from the experience to attend.

On a personal note, I count myself very fortunate to have had the opportunity to help Ray and Linda bring this vision to fruition and to have supported the capacity-building goal by ensuring a well-executed program and a sound learning environment. I treasure the memory of introducing so many alumni to Canada and Ottawa, knowing that they would return home with the best of impressions. I treasure most the experience of having had the world arrive on my doorstep. My thanks to former Carleton Deans Allan Maslove and Katherine Graham who showed me so much support and trust. I salute Ray and Linda and wish them and their families good health and good travels and many more successful years of IPDET.
Tribute for Ray Rist

A proper tribute for Ray would require at least a book or two. Ray is a man of the world, an international ambassador for good policy making and performance measurement. He does this through his research, writing and teaching... all around the globe. You never know where Ray is, but he stays in touch. Ray is everywhere, with unlimited energy, in either the virtual world or the real world. He was living social media before it existed. Unlike the rest of us who have only 365 days, I think Ray has 730 days in a year.

Ray is also kind and generous. Every time Ray introduces me, he gives me another promotion. Mind you, this has no impact on my pay cheque; nevertheless, it feels good. You feel valued and appreciated, and I know of no other person who has the capacity to do that as sincerely as Ray does.

Ray is an outstanding leader. The success of IPDET is a concrete reflection of his leadership ability. I am also aware of another accomplishment resulting from Ray’s leadership. A group called INTEVAL has been meeting every year for the last twenty-five years in different countries. The longevity of INTEVAL is, in of itself, quite an accomplishment.

What is more impressive is how this group operates. INTEVAL is a group of professionals, academics, consultants and public servants from 14 countries who have published more than 14 books on comparative policy evaluation. What is incredible is that these professionals are doing this on a voluntary basis; they actually pay to attend the meetings. Over the years, I have supported INTEVAL indirectly by funding some of my staff who participate in the work of this group.

Every member of the group attributes the success of INTEVAL to the extraordinary leadership of Ray.

Ray you are a model as a person and as a professional.

Thank you for your generosity and friendship.

Maria Barrados
President,
Canadian Public Service Commission

Linda, Ray, and the Carleton Team:

I have always been impressed by the incredible amount of work that was involved in creating IPDET and in ensuring that it continues to operate smoothly. It is difficult to think of two other people that could have done half as good a job as Linda and Ray. It is even more impressive that they have always created the impression that all of this is fun, and I do not recall ever having seen them when they were not smiling and joking. No one who has been involved with IPDET will even forget the IPDET college chant “I-P-D-D-E-E-E-T-T-T 200X”

They have also done a create job in working closely with the Carleton team to make this such an impressive and smooth operation. On top of all of this, they have somehow found time to extend IPDET to other regions of the world – not to mention managing to produce “The Road to Results” in their spare (!!!) time.

It has always been a great pleasure to work with Linda and Ray and I wish them every success with whatever new ideas they still plotting.

Michael Bamberger
Linda and Ray.
From the very beginning of IPDET, you expressed a vision of a vibrant and competent international evaluation community engaged in conducting useful evaluations that actually get used. And then you set about making that vision a reality. Kudos to you both. And deepest thanks.

One of the most memorable IPDET moments for me was the 2009 celebration launch of your book…

*The Road to Results: Designing and Conducting Effective Development Evaluations*

As part of this 10th anniversary tribute, I want to again honor your book and recall the launch, including the song that IPDETers sang to you.

Thank you for all of your contributions to building the international evaluation community.

*Michael Q. Patton*

**First Verse**
May all e-valu-a-tions done
Take the Road that leads to Results
De-ve-lop-ment more effective now
Each IP-DET-er exults.

We gather data near and far
To see what we can learn
The findings help all to decide
What to keep and what to spurn.

**Second Verse**
To Linda and to Ray, we say
Hoo-ray and job well done
The book shows what we need to know
We hope you’ve had some fun.

So be assured, IPDET endures
Our learn-ing is what you seek
Now outcomes guide our every move
We let the data speak.

**Verse 3**
The *Road to Results* we here affirm
Eval-u-a-tion rules
Your insights shared now out in print
We thank you for these jewels.

Evaluation pros arise,
IP-DET-ers here stand tall,
The world will be a better place
With results for one and all.

(Lyrics by MQP)

IPDETers singing the song can still be seen on YouTube at:
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Mygu8UgJmIU

Linda, Ray, Barbara, Karen & Mary:

Ten years of IPDET, ten years of Ray, Linda, Barbara, Karen and Mary.

What an accomplishment, what an intellectual ‘feast', what a friendship. I have known Ray since 1985 when we met at US GAO, where he was in charge of operations and everything else in the world-famous Program Evaluation and Methodology Division of GAO. I was the head of the Netherlands GAO department of evaluation & performance audits. A friendship has existed ever since, joint publications, and joint IPDET work, and much more…

Linda I met in the mid 90s at the World Bank Headquarters, but I must have also met her, without knowing, when she worked at US GAO. Every year during my time at IPDET, we have had breakfast next to the Westin, and we have discussed the world and the state of the art in evaluations.

Barbara, Mary and Karen—for you I would like to ‘klatsch Beifall,’ which means to ‘applaud' in German. What would IPDET have been without your efforts? Thanks!

*Frans L. Leeu*
To the editors of the tribute tome for Linda Morra and Ray Rist,

I have never been a participant of IPDET and I have never visited the exquisite city of Ottawa, famous for its tulips in spring. However, when I heard that this year would be the 10th anniversary of IPDET and that a tribute certificate would be assembled for my dear friends Linda and Ray, I simply could not resist and had to write you. Please do accept this tribute as well, since I have been the host of many IPDET missions to Outer Baldonia, and I also would like to pay my respects to this wonderful summer camp and its many participants! I thank you so very very very much in advance...

Dear Linda and Ray,

My memory is still very clear of the fog that was awaiting the first IPDET mission to arrive in Outer Baldonia in 2001. I remember it well – the salty air, the smell of rotten fish, the melancholy sounds of the pipers at the airfield – and then suddenly the break in the clouds and the arrival of flight OB002a from Hallifax, bringing the first group of enthusiastic evaluators from IPDET. My appeal to you had worked and I was going to get advice from the best evaluators from all over the world, gathered at your first summer camp in Ottawa. What good news that they were willing to interrupt their holidays to help out the government of Outer Baldonia to set up an independent evaluation unit.

This all resulted from an angry letter that I wrote to Ray a few months before, about his Atlas on evaluations all over the world, which somehow managed to overlook Outer Baldonia! Shocked I was, and dismayed, and hurt, and the more so since even though my unit was new, there was a strong evaluation tradition in our magnificent island – I remember well the evaluation of the "see the whales" campaign, where I intimately interviewed several Canadian tourists. How could you have overlooked this, even if it was never published? Ray replied instantly with bountiful and abject apologies and our correspondence took off like a seagull after a drunken sailor with a fresh fish over his shoulder, as we say here.

When a month later I wrote to both of you about the difficulties I encountered in setting up the independent evaluation unit, you immediately offered support from the group of astute professionals that for the first time would gather in Ottawa, for a lovely month of cycling, museum visits, canoeing and yodeling, if I gather discreetly. That summer the first mission arrived, and many summers were to follow (though interrupted by some other seasons).

We took all these missions first to the minister of Finance, Justice and the Interior, who was of course overjoyed to see the world taking a keen interest in evaluation in our wind-swept island. Our beekeeping, our woolen sweaters, our fish industry, our whale watchers, all were
awaiting quality evaluation to improve their products, incomes, and outcomes, to increase their impact. Unfortunately, the minister recently was deposed due to some financial irregularities, but otherwise I am sure he would have joined me in this felicitation.

Linda, I should of course dedicate a special accolade to you! It was so wonderful to greet you on that windy, cloudy, foggy, rainy and stormy evening when night flight OB001c arrived from St. Pierre & Miquelon and I was able to escort you to our rusty and trusty "Bed & Fish & Chips" hostel in Tuna Town, and to see you working so hard on the evaluation of our Outer Baldonian secondary school vocational training program! Such a thorough and well-designed evaluation matrix it became! You can imagine that the minister of Education and Health could not resist this – especially given the criticism of the quality of education by our private sector, which was, at the time, financing his opponents in parliament. You will be glad to know that the minister decided to carry out the full and complete evaluation, in order to settle this issue once and for all time. We expect the results in four years time, when all your questions have been asked and answered. Alas, this also means that there will be no vocational training program for that duration, because the minister had to use all the vocational training budget to finance the evaluation… but I'm sure that our industries and local communities are more than willing to wait that long, because with the results of the evaluation we will be able to set up the best ever vocational program in the world, which you, Ray, must then include in the next version of your evaluation Atlas.

Meanwhile, even though our minister is now unfortunately detained due to some financial uncertainties, I managed to talk to our President when I met him at the fish market, scoring cheap fish heads for his Sunday soup. He immediately remembered all the nice IPDET missions, that had allowed him time after time to shut up his political opponents and the press because after all international experts were looking at the problems, were they not? His heart filled with gratitude and overflowed with the proposal to see whether our wonderful university, pearl of wisdom in a sea of herring, as we say in Outer Baldonia, would be willing to extend the honor to you two of becoming honorary Doctors. They have a wonderful title for that, I'm not sure what, but later the President told me, when I met him at Mrs. Busybee's knitting shop to get his sweaters repaired, that yes he had succeeded and that you would receive these degrees on our national day, on July 15. When I met him later at the Outer Hudson Trailer Olde Shop where he was trying on new rubber boots, he asked me to tell you that you would need to get into contact with the Outer Baldonian Ambassador in Washington DC to ensure that you would get the original degree on the national holiday. It will not be valid before that day! However, I include an image of the degrees below.

So many beautiful memories flow by like sheep's pee in the river, as we say here in Outer Baldonia. I wish you all the best and ten more summer camps! I'm sure that your lovely team of scouts, headed by Karen Ginsberg and Barbara Levine, such lovely young women that I heard such breathtaking stories about, will continue to bring entertainment, rest, culture, happiness and a full stomach to the many professional evaluators from all over the world. It has been our privilege in Outer Baldonia to work with you. All the best from the Island where the fog never shines!
University of Outer Baldonia

To all whom these letters shall come, Greetings!
In recognition of his noble service to education

Ray C. Rist
Is hereby conferred with the honorary degree of
Doctor of Outer Baldonian Studies (D. Obs)
With all rights, privileges, and honours thereunto appertaining.
Honoured this Fifteenth Day of July, Two thousand and ten,
our National Holiday.

President
Dear Ray and Linda,

Both of you have made IPDET a World Class Professional Training Programme on Development Evaluation. All who attended the IPDET programme very highly commend on its quality, relevance, knowledge and skills imparted. It is a great global initiative, which not only helped to strengthen practical skills in development evaluation but also created a pool of professional resource persons and capacities in developing countries to sustain the M&E efforts.

Dr. Ray has been a very special friend to Sri Lanka. He helped Sri Lanka to develop its M&E capacity and RBM systems. Dr. Ray is well known in the Sri Lankan Public Service and his orientation on RBM to senior Policy Makers and Government Officials is highly commended. His dynamism and all other qualities make him a very special professional trainer. He helped Sri Lanka through the Ministry of Plan Implementation in its efforts to institutionalize Managing for Development Results (MfDR) in government.

As a Governing Council Member of the Sri Lanka Evaluation Association (SLEVA), I wish to extend my special thanks to Dr. Ray for the excellent support and contribution he extended to make SLEVA a thriving community of evaluators.

Moreover, in my capacity as a Vice Chair of the Asia Pacific Community of Practice (CoP-MfDR) on Managing for Development Results, I wish to place on record the excellent professional contributions made by Ray to strengthen the Asia Pacific Regional Community of Practice on Managing for Development Results through effective virtual networking. His support and professional contributions in making Shanghai International Programme for Development Evaluation Training (SHIPDET) a successful regional M&E training programme is commendable.

Ray is Global asset to the Evaluation community. His book on ten steps to RBM and other publications are widely used by M&E professionals and practitioners. He is a Global Champion on RBM.

May God bless Ray, Linda and the team with all success.

V. Sivagnanasothy
Director General
Department of Foreign Aid and Budget Monitoring
Ray and Linda:

I have had the privilege of basking in the enthusiasm, expertise and leadership of Ray Rist for over a decade. I wish to thank you, Ray for your sincerity in helping us in Africa build an M&E community, for trusting in us and making us feel that we can make a difference, and helping us talk truth to power. Through M&E, we have increased levels of transparency and accountability that bodes well for governance on our continent. You have set marching forth an ever increasing and skilled band of African evaluators, who help us deepen democracy in our countries, and make us confident to stand on any international platform and talk about our experiences.

This is no mean feat. You would remember that towards the end of the 90s, when there was very little mention of the word M&E in Abidjan, we invested in a dream. Your inspiration has led to the dream becoming a reality; we have a vibrant African Evaluation Association, strong country associations, and an entrenched practice. Ray, we salute you, as the father of M&E, for not only producing the text on the subject but also translating the words into life through you brilliant delivery of training, across the world like no one else has done. You are a mentor and inspiration. From the Public Service Commission of South Africa, which you have supported, as well as the South African Monitoring and Evaluation Association, we wish you well.

To Linda, thank you for your love and dedication, and for driving IPDET with Ray. You have helped create a community of practice, and we draw strength from the alumni of IPDET, who always help us when we face practical challenges. You too have made an amazing contribution, and all those who have met with you have been touched by your sincerity and warmth. May the years ahead be even greater.

Thank you.

Indran A. Naidoo
Deputy-Director General
Monitoring and Evaluation
Office of the Public Service Commission
South Africa

Linda and Ray

I want to take this opportunity to express my thanks for the incredible work done by Linda and Ray in building and nurturing the IPDET community. You encourage all of us to help use our collective talents, to share our knowledge, to help others better understand the Professional Field of International Development Evaluation, and to be better at our craft. You made the process “painless” and your patience was amazing. The program is fantastic and your ability to “scale it up” has made a difference in many countries, to the profession and for the lives of many peoples. A toast to the next 10 years!

Charles Lusthaus
IPDET-Organizational Assessment Course
The Universalia Management Group
Ode (well, Limerick) to a Decade of IPDET

There was a young man known as Ray
Who thought there might be a great way
To help many nations
E-val-u-ations
Hence IPDET, what more can I say!

There was a young lady named Linda
Who just had to point her finger
Getting everything done
While still having fun
Launching IPDET, in all its splendour!

Don’t forget the essential team
Who realise the IPDET dream
They do it themselves
With the help of young elves
Barbara, Karen, and Mary – supreme!

Penny Hawkins

Thinking About IPDET

My thoughts and memories are not strictly IPDET-based, as they also go back to a multi-year association with these two champions of evaluation capacity building. These activities took place in the World Bank as well as under the auspices of the OECD/DAC Network on Development Evaluation.

Both Ray and Linda have shown unabated energy and enthusiasm in reinforcing and renewing the IPDET programme as well as making generations of IPDET participants feel at home during the course. In my view, both aspects are important to explain the value and the success of IPDET.

If one would ask me to characterize Ray in five words, I would reply that he is the world’s ultimate “evaluation teacher-cum-evaluation cowboy.” By this unconventional concept, I imply that Ray has always been looking for opportunities to promote evaluation among the believers as well as the unbelievers. He has been very successful in terms of providing new insights regarding evaluation approaches and methodologies. In his teaching and writing, he has made the ‘art of evaluation’ accessible to most and applicable by many.

As a matter of speaking and only pointing out the positive aspects of this figure in American history, Linda has been the “Calamity Jane of Evaluation” – showing an enormous drive to promote evaluation and in particular building evaluation capacity. Her specific position in the World Bank Institute and in particular her engagement in the promotion of evaluation capacity led to her central role in IPDET, where besides lecturing she has kept the IPDET-community (faculty as well as participants) updated about new issues in and opportunities for evaluation. One of the successes of IPDET for which she has to be credited is the strong ‘after sales service’ keeping the IPDET alumni actively involved with IPDET and with each other’s work through the Listserv.

I may go on, but will rest my case by stating that the development of IPDET and its ongoing success would have not be possible without Linda and Ray as the main drivers who also share their “driver seat” with the other staff involved in this training programme. To paraphrase the title of one of the songs of Neil Young “Long may they run IPDET”.

Ted Kliest
Policy and Operations Evaluation Department, Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Reminiscences of IPDET 2006-2009
And
Tribute to All Who Made It Happen

By Barbara Levine

I joined IPDET in the spring of 2006. I still gratefully remember the warm welcome I received from Linda and Ray, from my predecessor Karen Ginsberg, and from Carleton colleagues like Mary Dixon, Katherine Graham and Alan Maslove.

I was immediately struck by Linda and Ray’s tremendous sense of personal commitment to the participants and program, and by the pride that they take in excellence. Who else but Linda and Ray gives up a month each year to head north to the green (and sometimes soggy) banks of the Rideau…and, while here, put everything else in their lives on hold to engage with the dozens and eventually hundreds of evaluators, managers, public officials, and consultants who make their way to Ottawa each June, like migrating Canada geese?

While the rest of us are starting to slow down in week 3, Linda and Ray are still to be found eating university meals with the rest of the participants, car-pooling with the out-of-town instructors, trekking downtown to catch a jazz concert, or meeting with individuals about follow-up training to strengthen country level capacity. By week 4, when everyone else is losing steam, our intrepid co-directors are organizing the IDEAS AGM, reading hundreds of workshop evaluations, and meeting with the Secretariat to start planning for the following year. And they have done this for ten years while maintaining their enthusiasm and commitment to the larger community.

Their leadership and personal example set a tone for everyone else, from workshop instructors who travel halfway around the world and give up precious personal and professional time to teach at IPDET, to campus and Secretariat staff who work holidays, weekends and evenings to help us deliver the program, to the participants who give 110% effort despite jet-lag and homesickness (and, oh yes, the university food).

How lucky I was to inherit a superb, smoothly running program of impeccable reputation. My job has been one of stewarding and enhancing the intangible assets that the program had acquired: Its reputation; its relationships with instructors, alumni, donors and other stakeholders; and the trust that many individuals and organizations have in the program. The most satisfying moments for me are when agencies send participants to IPDET year after year, knowing that the quality of learning will be second to none and that, on their return, alumni can be catalysts for change within the organization. Equally satisfying is when alumni send staff and colleagues to the program, knowing the difference that IPDET made for their own professional and personal development. There is no greater vote of confidence in our work.

Under Linda and Ray’s leadership, IPDET has continued to adapt, change, improve, and remain relevant. Here are just a few highlights and challenges that have marked the last five years:
The link between IPDET and the School of Public Policy has been strengthened. Linda and Ray are both officially adjunct professors, and it is now possible for IPDETers to earn academic credit towards a Master’s Level diploma while they are here. The benefits have been two-way. The development of the Diploma was in no small measure due to the presence and reputation of IPDET on campus.

Sponsoring organizations continue to support the program. It has been very gratifying having multi-year donors who support IPDET through scholarships and who send their staff and partners to teach and learn with us. All of us work hard to maintain these relationships of confidence and trust.

Content is regularly updated. Since I started there was first the Paris Declaration, then there was Accra, and it has been immensely satisfying seeing the focus of learning shift from project to program and policy. Kudos to Linda and Ray and all the workshop instructors for keeping content fresh and current.

We have made communication a priority with our various stakeholders. We have re-invented the website to make it the primary “go-to” spot for information about the program, so that there are more than 6,000 visitors to the site every month. We’ve added a searchable Consultants’ Corner for those looking for evaluators and we post Employment Opportunities for alumni. There is lots more we would like to do via electronic media to support the IPDET community of evaluators…watch for more to come.

New regional evaluation training programs have emerged. Linda and Ray helped to create SHIPDET and CzechDET, both of which are responding to regional and national needs that simply cannot be met by IPDET. We are excited about new evaluation training programs that will be created next in Africa and we hope there is a constructive support role IPDET can play.

For me personally, there is the remarkable experience of having committed, engaged, enthusiastic, and curious development practitioners spend a month learning evaluation skills together. We really do become family over the duration of the program, and I feel honoured to participate in the opening of minds as well as hearts that often happens on the Ottawa campus somewhere between Leeds residence and the Loeb building.

Finally, I have the great pleasure of being part of a team that includes Linda and Ray, Carleton colleagues, an international faculty, and a group of energetic and globally minded undergraduate students. For this last group, IPDET is often a transformative experience, and many of our program assistants go on to positions in evaluation, development and public service. Not bad…for a day’s work.

Heart-felt congratulations to Linda and Ray, Bob Picciotto, Ted Jackson, Alan Maslove and all those at IEG, Carleton and around the world who had the vision and the courage a decade ago to create something new and invest in the hundreds of people who have been touched by the IPDET experience. And thanks to Gregg Jackson for encouraging us to celebrate this wonderful accomplishment together.
Inspired!

IPDET was an inspired concept that was conceived, plotted, and magically carried out by you, Ray, and you, Linda. It was in 2000--in the MDGs climate--absolutely perfect timing, but has persisted because this program is in any case essential to the development of programs through careful monitoring and evaluation.

The supporting institutions (Carleton and the World Bank) deserve credit for sharing your vision—let’s hope for another 10 years of vitality, an even broader reach, and more of the remarkable results for which you two have served as key catalysts, cheerleaders, and imaginers!

Without the key support staff, which has been wonderful, IPDET could not have been implemented with such excellent timing and organization. Thanks for letting me be a small part of it….

Janet Mancini Billson, PhD,
Director
Group Dimensions International
Woolwich, Maine, USA

Ray, Linda, Karen, Barbara and Mary:

Congratulations --- 10 YEARS!!! Not only have you built the premier international development evaluation program, you have produced a large family with strong skills and even stronger ties. Others will write about how you brought together a great faculty and worked with them to develop four full weeks of excellent training, but it took more than brains to create IPDET.

You needed to know how to party!!
You have proved that you excel.

IPDET is so much more than academics. It is weekend excursions, dorm life, Canada Day, Graduation, soccer, newsletters, lunch speakers, blue herons, undiminished enthusiasm, and yes, the ListServe. IPDET is an experience.

Thanks for letting me be part of IPDET and for the experience.

Sid Edelmann
Communications and Outreach
Independent Evaluation Group
Washington, DC

Linda and Ray

Congratulations on the tenth Anniversary of IPDET. Thanks to your joint vision, hard work and commitment, IPDET has grown into a truly world-class center for teaching evaluation to practitioners.

Gene Swimmer
Linda, Ray, Karen and Barbara

The four of you have consistently demonstrated a passion for excellence in delivery of the IPDET program. From the big picture to the smallest detail, the work that you have put into IPDET over the years has resulted in creation of a true learning community around development evaluation. Well done!

I am proud to report that this experience has taught Ray and Linda two things about Carleton and Canada. The first is that Carleton food service is capable of producing "High-end hors d'oeuvres." This was an early preoccupation of Ray and Linda as the first IPDET was being planned. Thanks to them, Carleton University probably now has more chocolate fondue fountains than any other university in Canada. The second thing is they learned about "the Canadian shield," the vast expanse of granite that covers much of central Canada. "The shield" and the fact that people like me live on it, blew Ray, in particular, away. After 10 years, he continues to have an avuncular interest in "the shield," always asking me about its health.

Professor Katherine A. H. Graham
School of Public Policy and Administration
Carleton University

Linda and Ray

I have loved my association with IPDET, but I especially enjoyed sharing two things with you. First, it was "fun" to be stranded with you at the Ottawa Airport in 2009. Second, it was FUN to tag along on Canada Day to watch the fireworks in 2008. Above all, thanks for making IPDET happen and bringing so many great people together.

Phil Joyce
Professor of Public Administration and Public Policy
The George Washington University
Dear Ray and Linda:

Having attended the very first IPDET as a participant, and then invited back as an instructor for subsequent years, I have seen over the years the hard work and effort that has gone into making IPDET what it is today – a world-class course and community of evaluation practitioners.

Please accept my heartfelt congratulations to both of you on this important anniversary.

Your vision, leadership, and perseverance, particularly in the early days at the Bank and IFC, and with other donors, has made IPDET a world class institution that we are all proud to be associated with, and to contribute to.

I look forward to many more years of IPDET, and to seeing how it is successfully replicated in various parts of the world. The ultimate success!

My warmest wishes

Nancy MacPherson
Managing Director, Evaluation
The Rockefeller Foundation

Dear Linda and Ray,

Nursing and raising your baby IPDET to become a teenager is no small feat and you deserve all the praise and thanks that you will get, not least from the many alumni who have benefited from attending IPDET. In our world of practicing evaluators, we meet them repeatedly. You have built a great resource

Raising a baby is one thing, teaching a teenager to survive on her own is quite another. When at the same time nursing a bunch of mini IPDETs, it becomes an enormous task. We are confident that you will succeed in that too.

Luckily, you have several aunts, Barbara, Karen and Mary, taking care of the daily chores for you, and without whom IPDET would not have survived. They deserve our tribute as much as you do.

Together you marshaled and managed an enthusiastic and helpful group of volunteers and staff who were always able to provide for the TNT team’s needs. Thanks for that, and here’s hoping we have contributed some to the success of IPDET.

Cheers,

Ted Kliest, Niels Dabelstein, & Ted Freeman
IPDET 2025!

IEG
INDEPENDENT EVALUATION GROUP
WORLD BANK GROUP

Carleton University
Canada's Capital University