

Who We Are, What We Do: Patricia Rogers, OPCS

March 25, 2005—Most staff in the Bank's Washington offices would recognize Patricia Rogers, Senior Policy Writer in the Operations Policy and Country Services (OPCS) unit instantly, thanks to her solo performances with the Bank/Fund choir. But she is a lot more than the commanding vocal presence in the choir. Rogers recently returned from Paris where she had been working on the High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness.



Patricia Rogers

Rogers' face is animated when she talks about this initiative, which has occupied her for the past year. "This is something that gives me great satisfaction to work on because it just makes so much sense that all of the people and organizations working on development should be working together in the same direction," she says.

The forum was organized with the collaboration of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), the French government, other multilateral development banks and aid donors. "Of course, it's richer with everybody's participation," Rogers says.

She adds that "at the same time it gives you an idea how difficult harmonization can be: when you have well-meaning, intelligent people sitting around a table trying to do something together, it's still hard to move the agenda forward." She says that "it's important not to downplay how difficult it can be, to go from a single meeting to an entire Country Assistance

Program. But even so it's clear that we—the Bank, countries, and other development partners—have made great strides."

Besides the forum, Rogers is deeply involved in other OPCS initiatives, such as the simplification program and the results agenda. Right now she is quite excited by the opportunity to work on a Country Office project in the field. "I went to Malawi and joined in the country portfolio review there, preparatory to doing a CAS completion report and eventually a results-based CAS," she says. "I'm really enjoying the opportunity to work at the country level, because I always work on policies and papers at the central level without seeing how they play out in the country."

Joy in singing

As much as Rogers is excited about her work, she really lights up when it comes to her singing. "Singing is a joy, and it's a pleasure to have the chance to sing with the choir at the Bank," she says. She has had a voice teacher for the last 10 to 12 years, with whom she works about once every two weeks or so. "My heroes are people like Renee Fleming and Beverly Sills. I go to concerts when I can, to hear people sing so I can see what they do and how they do it," she says.

Rogers says learning to use one's voice properly is not easy. "If you pick up a violin or trumpet you can see the instrument, and I can say move this string or play on that spot or push that button; but you can't see the voice inside you. Learning to use your voice is a tricky thing." She adds that "I really have gotten a lot of satisfaction out of learning better how to use it. I only wish that I had started much younger."

Two of her three grown children started much younger, and she says they are talented and may go far. Her sons John and James have graduated from college already and live in the DC area, so she gets to see them quite often. Cara, the youngest, is still in college.

Besides singing, Rogers loves to read. She is currently reading *Somebody's Heart is Burning: a Woman Wanderer in Africa*, by Tanya Shaffer, and on her bedside is Renee Fleming's *The Inner Voice: The Making of a Singer*.

"Books I have recently enjoyed are Susanna Clarke's *Jonathan Strange and Mr. Norell*, *The Jane Austen Book Club* by Karen Joy Fowler, and *The Devil in the White City* by Erik Larson." She looks forward to reading Washington Post columnist Joel Achenbach's *The Grand Idea*, about George Washington and the history of the Potomac River. "It is an area that has been of particular interest to me since a couple of years ago, when my husband and I hiked the entire 184.5 miles length of the C&O Canal in stages," she says.

After life at the Bank, Rogers, who has been with the institution for 13 years, would like to get involved in volunteer work, especially in the area of teaching. "I've always thought that education is crucial," she says. "For my own kids, I may not be able to leave them stocks and bonds, but I gave them a good education. We have been so blessed in this country and in this life that if I can take some time and offer some of those blessings to somebody else, that would be really worthwhile."

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