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## Cardinalli Robert - Callison College One Pager

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I was blessed having been nurtured under the cradle of a family that came from diverse immigrant ethnicities and cultures and sustained important family linkages with the "old country" for decades. Thus I was introduced to the notion of a world beyond the Monterey Peninsula from very early on, during the sad era of American xenophobia marked by McCarthyism and suspicion about "foreigners" in general. As a high school student I had been an active player in our Model UN debates and roundtables, whereby we learned to role play arguing for or against the different countries' positions on global and regional issues. I recall in particular one event where I was role playing the Indian ambassador and arguing with my Chinese "counterpart" over the conflict in the Aksai Chin border area near Ladakh. At the same time an abiding interest in the Indian subcontinent was fueled by my stepfather who had been borne in Darjeeling to English parents before WWI. So, encountering the prospect of spending a year in India with UOP at the age of 19 was quite enticing. I was fortunate to have been accepted into undergrad programs at BrownU, Santa ClaraU, UC Berkeley and UOP (Callison College). UOP had been the fallback in the event that the other 3 turned me down. At some point in my senior year of high school I had an opportunity to meet a couple of the Callison faculty (Cathy Tisinger and Gil Schedler) and was drawn into their all-embracing vision of higher education and shaping young minds into thinking globally. This was light years away from the traditional approach I perceived from the other four schools in terms of undergraduate education. By the time I had to make a decision about college, it was clear where my die was to be cast – Callison at UOP. The Callison philosophy toward education captured my imagination like little else: understanding from whence "we" came (e.g. Greek and Roman heritage), at the same time exploring and experiencing other ancient and modern cultures. I was hooked, and I never looked back. I spent a glorious sophomore year in Bangalore, India during the third year of the UOP program there. Intensively studying Hindi and Sanskrit languages, delving deeply into ancient and modern Indian literature, learning from incredibly dynamic teachers as I. Job Thomas (Indian art history), Prof O.K. Nambiar (South Indian history and literature) has been one of the great privileges of my lifelong learning quest. I vividly recall Provost Doug Moore telling us in one class that "you don't have to wallow up to your hocks in cows\*\*t" to understand other cultures, "but once you have wallowed up to your hocks nothing else will satisfy you." How right he was---it was during this phase of college that I decided to apply my skills, whatever they might become, toward improving social conditions, and not just studying them.

My personal project that sophomore year was on leprosy in rural Mysore State, in the context of caste, treatment and social stigma. People understood so little about this disease and I recall one short-lived Callison teacher in Stockton advising against taking on this study as it might raise fears among other colleagues that I, too, might be infectious. I pressed on, and that study became the basis for continued major multi-year research on the topic, for the Netherlands Royal Tropical Institute many years later in Nepal and Bhutan. This was accompanied by personal fulfillment during the winter break finding the home in Darjeeling where my stepfather was born and going to the then-closed kingdom of Sikkim where his family had started a small tea estate. This piqued my passionate interest in the Himalayas.

Later, I was able to spend a senior-year semester in Nepal as an intern at the Centre for Economic Development where I participated in a socio-economic study of a remote region in northwestern Nepal that in turn morphed into my senior year project back in Stockton. All told, I clocked more than 24 years in Nepal as researcher and development specialist. At the same time, through my Callison adviser, Gandhian scholar Joan Bondurant, I fell under the influence of two Himalayan anthropology professors at Berkeley and was convinced that this was the discipline I had been seeking to provide the foundation for my future endeavors.

The Callison experience at UOP for me was marked in particular by the desire to let students create their own tailored programs. There were not many places in the US during the height of the Vietnam and Cambodia conflicts and Nixonian domestic terrorism, where a student could undertake a formal university supported study on comparative autocratic regimes (Mayor Daley's Chicago, the Nixon White House and apartheid South Africa, in my case) and get academic credit for it. In 2021, with autocratic regimes abounding with ever greater force around the world that study in 1971 seems almost prescient. Truth be told, probably not everyone was equally suited to this kind of approach, and some of my freshman year colleagues found themselves unready to mesh into that self-directed environment. Some of the aspects of Callison education that attracted me most, such as close interpersonal relationships between faculty and students, intimidated some. How does one even start to calculate the positive impact when a professor like Cathy Tisinger made half a dozen voluntary trips to Monterey to tutor me over the summer in Nepali language prior to my spending the fall semester in that country? Like all such interpersonal relationships, these were sometimes complicated, but always challenged and invigorated me to excel. I knew that the Callison environment was precious, fragile and had to be celebrated and protected, so it was all the more saddening when I heard that the powers-that-be at UOP determined that the focus of the college needed major changing through amalgamation with another of the UOP cluster colleges, and eventually abandoned altogether, as interest in international studies appeared to be falling victim to more economically enriching fields. However, the kernel of faith in the Callison philosophy was kept alive at UOP through the establishment of the School for International Studies.

Following Callison I undertook graduate studies in anthropology under Himalayan scholar John Hitchcock at U of Wisconsin. After the nurturing environment of Callison and UOP, the cut-throat competitive world at a major university was a serious shock. But I soon discovered that the UOP international foundation gave me a profound sense of self-confidence to pursue doctoral studies even in that academic pressure cooker world. Looking back, I don't think I could have survived it otherwise. I received research grants from the National Science Foundation and Ford/Rockefeller Foundations to do extensive research in Nepal in an applied area, population policy and human migration. Looking back now over 45 years later at the successful proposals I wrote, I can see that the experience gleaned through my time at UOP, informed my approach and gave me an edge.

Over the course of my career, I served 15 of those years with the United Nations as resident representative and development specialist for extended periods in Sudan, Nepal, and Pakistan administered Kashmir. I have technical program management and applied research experience as a research and development anthropologist in South Asia, the Middle East, Africa, and Southeast Asia, Central Asia and South Caucasus.

I was long fascinated by the role of water in society and politics, and the power of user led ownership and management of water resources to maintain social stability and sobriety, otherwise all too often resulting in conflict, wars and sustained human suffering. I can look back with some degree of satisfaction at having played a role in crafting blueprints for formation of impactful government policy reforms in this arena, in countries as diverse as Uzbekistan, Armenia, Pakistan, Nepal and India. During 2011-2014 I developed and implemented a \$48 million Public Action for Water, Energy & Environment Program in Jordan, reaching more than 90% of Jordan's population using social marketing methods to promote changes in behavior leading to more efficient use of water and energy, and greater protection of the environment. Living the old maxim of ending at the beginning, for my final long term endeavor from 2014 through 2018 I managed a \$79 million program for Save the Children International that significantly increased food and water security in economically and environmentally precarious regions of Nepal, and built community resilience capacities for efficient resources management, in the aftermath of the devastating 2015 earthquake, bringing significant and sustainable food and water security and economic change to over 5 million of the most vulnerable households.

In addition, I continue to be an advocate for, and active proponent of, social marketing as a tool to effect lasting and efficient natural resource utilization behavior change, and under my helm the Jordan Social Marketing Center for the Middle East was created. Since 2018 I have been Sr. International Advisor to the National Social Marketing Center of the UK, and developing new behavior change initiatives in Africa, the Middle East and Asia. Currently, while living full time now at my home of many years on the island of Cyprus, I am a member of the team that is undertaking the exciting process of creating a new University of Limassol, with a focus on applied academic research and social change. I can say in all modesty, that what the UOP international studies experience left me with is a profound sense of my place in the world: if I see a seriously flawed system in the world that needs redress, I really don't need to be told to do something about it. I just do it...if I can."

Robert Cardinali, Bangalore III