



Emerging Ideas

The Newsletter of
The International Development Studies Program

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EMERGING IDEAS

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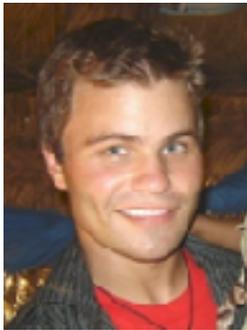
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It's Fall Quarter again, the beginning of a new academic year, and it is a time for me to say "welcome aboard" to a new IDS cohort, the class of 2007-2009. I am happy to see our class size continuing to grow over the years. This year we have seventeen students joining the program and about two-thirds of them are international students coming from different parts of the world. As you will find in their short bio-sketches on the pages that follow, these students are bringing with them diverse disciplinary knowledge and real-life experience in international development. I would also like to take this moment to say "welcome back" to the returning IDS second-year cohort. As you may know, most of them went through a busy and fruitful summer as they participated in either study-abroad programs or internships with various non-government organizations. I am so happy to hear that all the participants felt that they benefited considerably from these summer activities in terms of their personal development. As the program director, nothing would thrill me more than seeing our students gain valuable knowledge from their on-site experiences and fare better in the job market as a result. I think that IDS is moving in the right direction towards its mission goal, that is, to create a dynamic interactive environment in which our students can be trained to develop critical and analytical abilities. With the support of the Ohio University community and affiliated IDS faculty, this is accomplished through classroom learning, educational field trips, study-abroad programs, and internships with various development NGOs. Through a combination of these approaches the IDS program hopes to meet the diverse needs of our current and future students.



Ramzi Assali is a Fulbright grantee from East Jerusalem, Palestine. He has two undergraduate degrees: one in Medical Technology from Al-Quds University and the other in International Relations from the Hebrew University. He is studying International Development because he has always wanted to be an active agent in the war against poverty, inequality, and injustice. Moreover, his country is in a process of state building and therefore needs specialists in the field. He hopes that he will contribute effectively to the development of his country and to the alleviation of the suffering of his people.



Mitchell Boutin is from Saco, Maine. He completed his undergraduate degree in International Relations and French at Boston University in 2005. While attending Boston University, Mitchell spent three semesters studying in Niger and Madagascar. After graduation he returned to Niger where he worked in food relief efforts with the NGO MercyCorps. Since returning to the US, Mitchell has also worked in educational advancement at a private high school. At OU he is pursuing a dual degree in International Development and Cultural Studies in Education. He is most interested in issues concerning education and gender, particularly in the Islamic regions of Africa.

Damion Croston is originally from Massillon, Ohio and completed his undergraduate degree at Ohio State University earning his B.S.B.A. in 2003. After graduation he served as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Panama working with women artisans and information technology (IT) projects. Upon completion of his service in 2006 Damion and several other Volunteers founded Planting Empowerment, a for-profit organization designed to diminish deforestation and the rural poverty often associated with it. Damion's current academic interests lie in development and social sciences.



Alex Doles is from the United States. Her interests are history and international politics as well as the world's response to human rights issues on national and international levels.

Linh Dang holds two bachelor's degrees, Law, and International Trade and Economics, from Hanoi, Vietnam. He also graduated from Institut Universitaire d'Etudes du Developpment (IUED) in Geneva, Switzerland with a master's degree in Development Studies. He has 9 years of work experience as a Program Coordinator in the People's Aid Coordinating Committee (PACCOM), the functional agency for the Committee for Foreign NGO Affairs (COMINGO) in Vietnam. He has been involved in various types of development and humanitarian projects/programs conducted by foreign NGOs working in Vietnam. He is now focusing his studies on development issues and the non-profit sector. And, last but not least, he is expecting his very first son, who will be born here in Athens in mid-January, 2008.



Daniel Deborde graduated from the University of Arizona with a B.S. in Environmental Geology. Upon graduating, he and his wife, Bethany were scheduled to serve in the Peace Corps, but had their plans positively changed with the birth of their son, Aiden. Recently, Daniel served as an Americorps VISTA Volunteer with Community Food Initiatives, a non-profit which promotes self-sufficiency and food security in rural southeast Ohio.



Ayumi Hama is from Saitama, Japan. This is her second year at Ohio University as she started the M.A. program in Political Science last year. This summer she went to Botswana through Ohio University's education abroad program and did an internship with NGOs working for improving human rights conditions in Botswana.

Niken Hardiani was born in Jakarta, Indonesia. She earned her undergraduate degree in English Literature at Padjadajaran University, Bandung, West Java. This year, she received a scholarship for master's study from the Indonesian government and Ohio University. Niken chose International Development Studies since it closely relates with her work in international affairs.



Vongchanh Indavong is from Lao P.D.R. She earned her bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering. After working for many years in the engineering field she followed her interests in development and took a position with Mekong River Commission Secretariat as an administrative assistant.

Hisako Inomata is from Toyota, Japan. She obtained her bachelor's degree in English Language and Culture at Chubu University. She once backpacked for six weeks throughout India. This was a great experience for Hisako and it motivated her to study International Development Studies. Hisako's concentration is social science in Asia, especially with issues involving children.

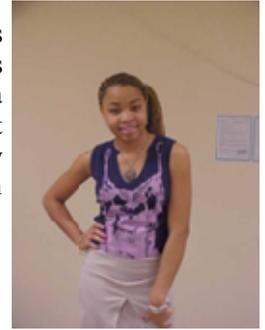


Hend Irhiam is from Libya. She majored in American Studies at Beijing Foreign Studies University in China. She also worked with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. She developed a great interest in illegal immigration through this work. She plans on specializing in illegal immigration in her master's work as well. Hend looks forward to taking part in development projects at home in an effort to safeguard and empower vulnerable people.

Frednel (Freddy) Isma is from Haiti and attended Université Adventiste d'Haïti for his undergraduate degree in Business Administration. He also earned a post-graduate degree in Population and Development from Université d'Etat d'Haïti via Faculté des Sciences Humaines (Human Sciences Faculty). He has 11 years of experience working in different institutions and fields. He spent 5 years working as an accountant and from 2005 to 2007 worked as a project manager and logistics assistant in United Nations Development Program (UNDP) in Haiti. He also taught accounting and accounting software in Université Adventiste d'Haïti as well as courses in demography in INHSAC before his arrival at Ohio University as a Fulbright Scholar.

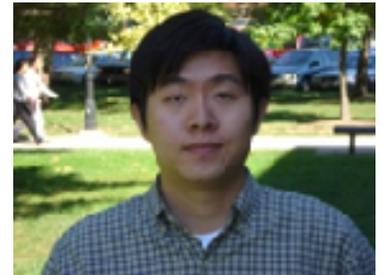


Bella Anne Chinwendu G. Ndubuisi hails from the great Giant of Africa, Nigeria, where she spent 17 years of her life before coming to the United States to get her dual bachelor's degrees in International Relations and French at Lincoln University, Pennsylvania. She enjoys working with youth and children and serves as a mentor for the Lincoln University Upward Bound program where she has worked every summer for the past four years. Bella's concentration will be public policy and economics. She looks forward to going to law school and furthering her education in international law after OU. One of her goals is to become a Nigerian Ambassador to the United Nations.



Lynn Walroth is from Cincinnati, Ohio. She received her undergraduate degree in International Relations and Political Science from Eckerd College in St. Petersburg, Florida. After graduation she traveled throughout Europe and northern Africa and worked in London. Lynn's interests include poverty reduction and aid to developing nations.

Yu You is from China. When he was an undergraduate, he majored in Computer Science. Therefore, if anyone has a computer issue, please feel free to let him know. Yu is interested in Communication and Telecommunication. If anyone else is also interested in these areas, Yu would like to know and share ideas.



Lauren Young is originally from Cincinnati, Ohio. She completed her undergraduate degree in developmental psychology at the University of Michigan. Serving as a volunteer in sustainable animal management for Peace Corps Guatemala led her to pursue further opportunities with international horizons. She has worked since as an instructor and facilitator in cross-cultural communication, conflict management, and ESL. Lauren's current interests are labor economics, poverty reduction, and the region of Latin America.

Second Year IDS Students Share Their Summer 2007 Experiences

Internship Experience in Washington D.C Philip Adu

Summertime is often a period packed with excitement and awesome activities for many people. This past summer gave me an opportunity to complete an internship as a Faculty Advisor at Global Young Leaders Conference (GYLC) in Washington, D.C. There is nothing more rewarding than having a remarkable impact on the lives of high school students from all over the world. Besides all of this, I had the opportunity to visit about 16 interesting places in both Washington DC and New York, learn a lot about the UN Security Council and WTO Dispute Panel, improve my instructional communication skills and earn money.

Congressional Youth Leadership Council (CYLC) is a non-profit organization established in 1985. CYLC organizes programs for students with good academic performance and impressive leadership skills. Its mission is to "foster and inspire young people to achieve their full leadership potential". One of the conferences organized by CYLC, the Global Young Leaders Conference (GYLC), is designed to "educate, inspire, and motivate students by giving them the opportunity to explore cultural differences firsthand, challenge diplomatic skills daily, build confidence and enhance decision-making skills in an exciting atmosphere that is challenging and fun". Throughout the conference, I was able to assist high school students from all over the world in familiarizing themselves with global issues and challenges, to enhance their cross-cultural communication skills and to improve their leadership skills. This splendid experience has been indelibly chronicled in my mind and I wish all first year graduate students could take advantage of this opportunity.



Internship Experience With Management Services International Nathan Olah

I carried out my summer internship at the main headquarters of Management Services International (MSI) located in Washington DC. MSI is one of several private development agencies working out of the Washington DC area that compete to design and implement projects in other countries. By far their most significant funding source is USAID although they also accept contracts from multilateral organizations, non-profit organizations, universities, foreign governments, and private corporations. MSI is known for its specializations in conducting trainings in anti-corruption, democratization, and entrepreneurship development to name a few.

As a Project Management Intern, my job was to work in a team that maintains many of the logistical aspects of long-term and on-going projects for the company otherwise referred to as “backstopping”. This included tracking on-going budget spending to make sure that projects stay within their financial boundaries. I also researched and estimated costs for food, lodging and local transportation for new budget proposals geared towards specific regions of the world. A final duty was to help find and recruit teams of consultants that would implement projects in the field. This included advertising for positions, reviewing CVs, and maintaining phone and e-mail communication while preparing appropriate travel documents.

Overall, I enjoyed my summer internship at MSI because I was able to gain valuable experience involving the “behind-the-scenes” activities that go into international development work. I would recommend an internship with MSI to anyone interested in working in international development in the Washington DC area because they create a working environment in which interns are valuable members of a team.



My Journey in Cambodia Masayasu Higuchi



Chum-riab--sou (Hello). I would love to share about my little trip to Cambodia during the summer of 2007. Thanks to brilliant arrangements by my companion, Sothy Khieng, the voyage has inspired enthusiasm in me towards international development, particularly in Cambodia. I was also glad to meet people who are fighting poverty on the grassroots level in developing countries. Despite various difficulties and suffering from poverty, many people showed me big smiles with their curiosity. This is something a lot of Japanese people have lost in exchange for being highly developed. The Smile of Cambodia is my treasure.

Summer in Athens Shamim Mohammad

I stayed in Athens this summer and took classes on statistics: Educational Statistics (EDRE 720) and Regression Analysis in Education (EDRE 721). I am glad to share with you that I learnt a lot from these two classes. In fact, I strongly recommend these two classes for all the IDS students, particularly those aspiring to or presently working on their thesis topics and dealing with quantitative data.

The first class in statistics was primarily on research methods and ways and means to analyze the data using SPSS. This class was taught by Professor Johanson, a professor well known for his teaching skills and knowledge in statistics. The second class was on regression analysis. In this class, I learnt how to handle various independent variables impacting dependent variables. This is a method used extensively by researchers to find out cause and effect relationships.



Summer Experience With The United Nations Ravshan Grezov



As a graduate student at Ohio University's International Development Studies Program, I was interested in learning from both the professors and the development practitioners. The latter were more important for my future career goals because of the practical exposure I could gain from them. Therefore, I decided to apply for an internship at the United Nations Headquarters (UNHQ) where I could incorporate my educational and professional background in my work at this international organization and thereby gain knowledge and valuable experience from the organization. Having worked at the micro level for the United Nations Development Program in Tajikistan, I found the experience of being part of the United Nations Headquarters in New York City and discussing development issues at a global level to be challenging and enriching.

The duties of interns may vary depending on qualifications and needs of individual departments. In my case, I was considered a staff member and was participating, summarizing, and evaluating the online discussions on "Financing for Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women". I was also assisting with reports on Women in Development, focusing on Eastern Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States' countries covering poverty, inequality, empowerment, as well as participating in other development issues. I was also attending meetings of country missions' representatives to the United Nations and meetings of the United Nations bodies such as the United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF), the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), as well as funds and programs of the UN agencies such as the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). I strongly recommend all first year students to apply for summer internship programs not only at the UN, but also in other international development organizations where they can apply their knowledge in practice and thereby enhance their professional experience and build a solid career while working for the rightful development of the world.

Fall Welcome Picnic

The IDS program started off this academic year with an outdoor potluck picnic. Students, friends, family, staff and faculty made this year's picnic very enjoyable. First year students demonstrated their keen soccer, frisbee and volleyball skills. Thanks to everyone for attending and bringing food from your respective countries!



Mitch, Yu and Nang



Lynn and Freddy playing volleyball

