Student News
Alumni News
Events and Activities
Hello, from Yamada House!

Change is coming, at many levels and in different ways. As we all know, change is an element of life that we must learn to accommodate, and handle - sometimes well and sometimes less well.

For example, the International Development Studies (IDS) program welcomes new students each fall semester, a very welcome change and one that rewards us continually. We adapt to the new students, incorporate them into IDS, and help them build a specific program suited to their needs and wants. Being in a university produces change on a regular, annual basis. For this comment, I want to discuss three future changes looming on the horizon.

First, to this newsletter - This will be the final issue of the standard version of the IDS newsletter.

For many years, the program has produced a newsletter every semester in the normative newsletter format. With the university and program moving into the fully digital format, we will be introducing a digital newsletter in the spring semester.

How will it be different? First, it posted on the IDS webpage (https://www ohio.edu/glob al/cis/ids/newsletter/index.cfm#) but not as a whole newsletter. We want to do it as an ongoing event.

Each month, the newsletter will add new items, making it more timely and reflective of current program events. Second, it will have segments written by different students and incorporate activities of the Association of Students for International Development (ASID). Third, I see it as evolving as time passes, being able to reflect better the change in the university, program, or students.

Second, to the program - The Center for International Studies (CIS), which is the academic home of IDS, is considering changes in the overall curriculum for all programs in CIS, including this program. Potentially, this will have multiple impacts for the program and the students in it. As I write this, the changes are not all complete, but they are coming. The goal is to create greater unity and cohesiveness among the various programs of the Center.

Third, about the director position - This is my last year as director. When I accepted the position in the fall of 2012, it was a temporary, part-time position for three years. That was extended an additional year because of circumstances in the CIS.

I have greatly enjoyed my tenure (again!) as director and will certainly miss the program, most especially the students in it. While I think it has grown and done well over the past 4 years, there are still goals I want to achieve this year before my service ends.

Even so, I know it is time to go. I believe the program would benefit from new leadership, new ideas, and different guidance, and I look forward to following its continued growth.
IDS Students Making Footprints

In the spring academic year of 2015, Team Du Monde, which consists of three International Development Students along with a mechanical engineer student, took the 4th Annual Scripps Innovation Challenge by storm with their “Safety of the Streets” campaign. The campaign consisted of wearable technology and an app that will both track and notify authorities of the location of the victim.

The Scripps Innovation Challenge is an annual competition that is both created and managed by Ohio University’s Scripps College of Communication. The purpose of the innovation competition is to challenges students to develop solutions to real-world media and communication issues.

In order to win, competitors had to present their innovative ideas in front of a live audience and a panel of four judges. In welcoming students from all majors and disciplines, this year, team Du Monde took home the first place prize of $10,000 for their campaign pitch to reduce sexual assaults on campus.

In addition to the first place prize, Team Du Monde also won a $5,000 bonus diversity prize for best addressing underserved audiences. Team Du Monde consist of Toluwani Adekunle (International Development Studies), Papa Ndiaye (International Development Studies), Sana Mahmud (International Development Studies) and, Sanusi Shehu (Mechanical Engineer major). After winning the Scripps Innovation Challenge, team Du Monde received the opportunity to compete in the Inaugural Scripps International Innovators Cup against students throughout the nation and abroad in the summer of 2015.

Winning The Inaugural Scripps International Cup also allowed Team Du Monde to be advised by leading professionals to bring there innovation to market. Team De Monde is now in the process of implementing their initiative through marketing and identifying key stakeholders.
The World Bank Youth Summit serves as a platform for conversation and action to make the World Bank Group (WBG) more relevant to global youth.

In November 16 – 17, 2015, the WBG organized such summit for third time. The summit focused on current activities going on to meet the challenge of climate change and how youth can play a role in making a positive change.

The WBG Vice President and Special Envoy for Climate Change, Rachel Kyte, briefly discussed WBG proposals for COP 21 in Paris. WBG would propose alternative model of economy with financial analysis in front of policy makers and corporate bodies.

A Panel discussion was arranged with the presence of high officials from Climate Reality Project, Earth Day Network, Plum Greek (a corporate institution), Net Impact and Earth Day Network. The discussants focused on how their respective organizations are bringing Climate Change issue to the upfront. The activities they mentioned include creating climate speakers for the community, developing and playing popular computer game internationally to raise awareness related to climate changes and, promoting renewable energy use among mass population etc.

The summit included a session on Hands-on training for participants. I chose the session on Integrating Climate Disaster Risk into Development. In this session, we had to work in a group to plan for environmental budgeting with limited resource, multiple stakeholders with respective interests.

There was also a group work session on how to connect mass audience by storytelling. This demonstration was from climate - reality project. They emphasize communication at community level. The idea is as climate change is a common reality to all; we can connect people effectively by sharing our experience (story) of working against climate change.

A case competition among six young finalists was held during the summit. The winner selected by Jury has the idea to alter diesel-based agricultural production into solar-energy based system.

The winner with audience vote proposed to launch a mobile game which would aware players about trivia on climate change and make players take greener steps virtually.
To sum up, the summit basically focused on how World Bank, corporate bodies and some development organizations are addressing the concern regarding climate change through their activities. A prime focus was predictably on youth roles and responsibilities.

While relating it with my academic understanding, I got two insights from manifestation of such activities.

First, one future direction of development practice suggested by Peet and Hartwick in their book "Theories of Development" was 'social movement' from different positions. To me, the activities happening/they showed us can be categorized into some kind of social movement.

Second, in his book titled "The Bottom Billion", Paul Collier categorized the activities in development world as development biz (things development organizations like WB, UN do) and development buzz (awareness, campaign run by popular faces or issue based organizations).

I found the summit attempted to bring both of them into a common ground for giving the participants a sense of current practice!
The Association of Students for International Development (ASID) is an up and coming organization that provides a platform for students and other Ohio University members who are interested in International Development to both discuss and act on global events.

ASID hopes to reach out to the Ohio University community and create global awareness on world pressing issues ranging from gender and discrimination to climate change and Immigrant crisis.

This academic year, ASID will be hosting a series of film screenings, speakers and events, all of which being related to global issues we face today. Some of the topics include immigration and undocumented workers, multiculturalism, international skill development and Climate Change.

The members of this year’s executive board and general body are eager to foster an environment where students of all backgrounds can come together and discuss world emerging issues as well as put on initiatives that will help create awareness and action.

ASID is an organization that provides a foundation where activists can both express and act upon their convictions to foster a justified environment.

The ASID executive board for this academic year consists of Donald Brooks (Chair of the Board), Thuy Ho (Chair of Programming), Paige Klunk (Media and Public Relations), Susan Mongolla (Treasure) and Ludmila (Student Senate Liaison).
Felipe Aros-Vera is an Assistant Professor of Industrial Systems Engineering at Ohio University with research interest in humanitarian logistics and operations. Before joining the Bobcat family, Dr. Aros-Vera worked as a postdoctoral research associate at the Center for the Infrastructure, Transportation and the Environmental at the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute.

Participating in several applied research projects, Dr. Aros-Vera has worked in Remote Sensing Decisions Support Systems for Optimal Access Restoration in post disaster environments. Dr. Aros-Vera has also worked in Integrative Freight Demand Management in the New York City Metropolitan Area, and New York City Park and Rides Study. With a plethora of publications, Dr. Aros-Vera continues to inspire through sharing his experience in the field. On Friday January 29th, Dr. Aros-Vera talked of his field experience with a group of International Development students at the Center for International Studies.

Dr. Aros-Vera presented to International development students on his experience in Nepal working in Earthquake Relief where he conducted research on observations from fieldwork. He spoke about international relief organizations efforts in Nepal on both local and national levels. He also spoke about project objectives in diagnosing and characterizing disaster conditions. Dr. Aros-Vera was happy to provide his perspective as students asked questions about development in disaster relief projects.

Publications:

Holguin-Veras J., F. Aros-Vera, and M. Browne (2015) Freight Agent Interactions and the Response to Public Policy. Economics of Transportation (In press)


Faith Knutsen is member of the staff in the Voinovich School of Leadership and Public Affairs in Ohio University and is serving as the associate’s director of operations for TechGROWTH. Ms. Knutsen is a member of an executive team implementing the $44M, State-sponsored public/private partnership focused on the growth and development of technology-based start-up businesses in the 20 counties of Southeast Ohio. Part of Faith’s duties, and the topic of her seminar, include grant management and early-stage strategic planning.

As a part of her current position Faith is a co-facilitator for a U.S. States Department-funded, Scripps-managed in-country seminar series for graduates of the Young African Leaders (YALI) Mandela Fellowship program and their mentees. In this role, Faith facilitated training on the Venture Model Canvas” in Tanzania and Namibia in 2015.

On September 18, Faith facilitated a workshop for International Development students on venture development tools and methods using a venture model canvas. This tool enabled students to create one-page project development plans for multiple existing or hypothetical ventures and projects. Faith hopes the tool will help students better conceptualize and manage their project/program ideas. When asked for any advice or wisdom she would like to leave for international development students, Faith stated.

“We all live in a ‘global village,’ and its boundaries are shrinking by the day as physical and digital travel and communication becomes easier and easier. I’m impressed by the enthusiasm and passion of your Development Studies class, and hope that you all find as much rich experience and enjoyment in your international careers as I have.”
Dr. Sheri Huckleberry holds a B.S. in Sport Science from the University of Connecticut. She holds the M.S.P.E. in Athletic Administration and the Ph.D. in Curriculum and Instruction with a cognate in Educational Research and specialization in Coaching Education, both from Ohio University.

Dr. Huckleberry teaches courses in the coaching education program. Her research focuses on the commitment and self-efficacy of youth sport coaches and the impact of deliberate play on the retention of youth sport participants. Recently she has been involved with the Sport and Development project in Ecuador that is part of Ohio’s Tropical Disease Institute and the Healthy Living Initiative.

**Recent Publications:**


Association for International Development Welcome Back Potluck.

International Development & Communication & Development students mix and mingle at Jackie O’s

Pushing through end of semester finals together!
End of the Semester Picnic at Hocking

IDS Family stops everywhere for group selfies

Out on the night for Halloween!
1st and 2nd year students last moments together.

Camping out at Paw Paw Festival

African Student Union's Annual African Night (IDS Representing Senegal and Ethiopia)

IDS Family Tradition… one of many potlucks!!!