

EMERGING IDEAS

OHIO UNIVERSITY INTERNATIONAL STUDIES PROGRAM NEWSLETTER



FROM THE DESK OF BOB WALTER

Director, International Development Studies

The spring edition of Emerging Ideas, the newsletter of the program, brings to you information, updates, and highlights of students and faculty as well as happenings in International Development Studies. To our loyal alumni (wherever you are), I welcome your input and feedback. I hope you find something of interest in the newsletter. Feel free to reply to me directly; I would enjoy hearing from you. Alternatively, you can reply to our LinkedIn group page; to our Development Studies mailbox; or to our Facebook page.



Bob Walter, IDS director. For more information, please visit: <http://www.developmentstudies.ohio.edu/People/index.htm>

There are three items I want to share with you. The spring semester is the time for reviewing applications for the incoming class, admitting students, and making financial aid awards. It is a stressful three month process, especially when there is a plethora of excellent candidates. This year, the IDS program had a record number of applications – over 70 in total! It is difficult to explain the sudden increase, even if, at the same time, grateful for it. Among this total, there were 12 Fulbright applicants – again, a remarkable number! Because we had far more worthy students than financial aid to award, our decisions this year were very difficult. Through various means, we were able to add one Graduate Assistantship to our previous ones and that helped. Additionally, the program increased the Graduate

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Recruitment Scholarships (GRS) which also was good. I think the incoming cohort will be very strong and much larger than this year's group.

Second, many of the current students in the program will be traveling this summer - in field research, internships, and working on projects. The IDS Program has been financially able to support most of these. One of the program's GAs, Courtney Ward, will be in Uganda on a USAID internship. Several students will be in Ecuador with the Healthy Living Initiative project - Rudaba Nasir, Conor Tong, and Prince Adu. In addition, some of the incoming class are participating in the field project; Nelson Patterson and Charlie Fulks are two of these. Other students will be in India (Pronoy Rai), Cambodia (Natalie Mercuri and Vanhlee Lattana), and Vietnam (Natalie Mercuri) working under various auspices. Hopefully, we can expand this aspect of the program to include more students in the summer of 2014.

The third point is the program's expanded cooperation, collaboration, and participation in the

Healthy Living Initiative (HLI) project of the Tropical Disease Institute (TDI). Under Professor Mario Grijalva, HLI has won grants, expanded its purview beyond Chagas disease, and has welcomed participation for students in the IDS program. HLI is an excellent example of the practice side of development studies giving students a chance to apply the development ideas and methods as well as develop skills. The additional Graduate Assistant that the program added for next year is tied to HLI and is titled the HLI GA. Students in IDS who receive this award will work with Professor Grijalva and the HLI project during their time in the program.

There are a number of specific changes and innovations planned for next year (see more on page 12 of newsletter). The program continues to expand substantively and build linkages internally at Ohio University and externally to development organizations. I look forward to the coming year with anticipation and hope to hear from many of you. Here is to a successful year!

IDS TRIP TO WASHINGTON D.C.

by Courtney Ward



This January, the IDS program took a trip to Washington, DC to meet with various development organizations. The program's director, Bob J. Walter, was able to set up a number of organizational visits with companies and funding donors for development.

Seven current students travelled by van, with financial support from the Center for International Studies, to Washington; one came by car from New York; and two recent graduates of the program joined the group in DC. Upon arrival on Wednesday, January 9, the students attended an

Ohio University Alumni Nation's Capital Chapter event at the Penn Quarter Sports Tavern. On Thursday, January 10, the group was able to meet with ACDI/VOCA in D.C. and Development Alternatives Inc. (DAI) in Bethesda, Maryland. Thursday evening, the students gathered with IDS alumni in the D.C. area for an informal reception. Friday, the group visited the International Center for Research on Women (ICRW), USAID, and the Millennium Challenge Corporation.



The focus of all the meetings included a description of the work done by the organization and even possible employment/internship possibilities. The IDS students were able to ask current employees questions about their career paths as development practitioners, the work they are currently doing, and the obstacles they face in the development arena. Indeed, all students who participated enjoyed being able to gain a better understanding of what type of development work is currently being done through non-profit, for profit, and government entities. Natalie Mercuri, first year IDS student, states, "It was a great networking opportunity as well as a chance to see the different sides of the development career spectrum. It was great to actually see faces, shake hands, and gather business cards. That way I actually have a direct point of contact into the company. I understand the people we met with are very busy but it was still helpful to know we can reach out to an actual person should we have any questions". The trip also provided students and recent graduates alike networking opportunities with other Ohio University alumni and current development practitioners.

Other students who participated in this trip had this to say: Josh Vetter states, "We definitely covered the gamut of organizations across the development spectrum. It was very useful to visit government, for profit firms, and non profit organizations to become acquainted with their specific function in the development field...I was energized to meet IDS alumni who have developed successful development careers and are willing to lend a hand to current students. Hopefully this network will only grow with

time." In addition, Prince Adu expressed, "I got a better sense of development work from a DC perspective, especially having had some experience in the field in my home country. One good thing was that the organizations we visited were diverse - research-oriented, health-oriented, gender-oriented, and business-oriented."

The IDS program will continue to support similar trips in the future in order to foster relationships with development practitioners and organizations.



IDS Program Additions

Development Practitioner
Lecture Series

Internship Databank

Development and Sports
IDS Concentration

Upcoming IDS Changes

Mentorship Program

IDS Concentration Focus
on Management Issues in
Development

Strengthening IDS Link to
the Healthy Living
Initiative of the Tropical
Disease Institute at Ohio
University

*For detailed information
regarding these program
additions and upcoming IDS
changes, please refer to page 12
of this newsletter issue.*

DEVELOPMENT PRACTITIONER SERIES HOSTS ALUMNI, NICK FORD & FAITH KNUTSEN

PRESENTER: NICK FORD

On January 25, the IDS program welcomed IDS alumnus, Nick Ford, back to Ohio University to kick off this semester's Development Practitioners Series. Speaking on his experiences in development thus far, Nick not only spoke of his journey through the field of development but also provided students with relevant and sound advice to consider when entering the field.

With a background in investment planning, Nick said that he became interested in the field of development after his two years as a Peace Corps volunteer in Tanzania. That experience opened his eyes to a much bigger and broader world, and thus, after his years abroad, he applied to the IDS program at OU.

In looking back on his time at OU, Nick believes that OU provided a good theoretical background to development practice. In addition, being able to learn from and network with various individuals in the program was the most valuable experience he received at OU.

Since graduating in 1996, Nick has spent most of his profession (16 years) with international development relief organizations. As an intern with Catholic Relief Services, Nick started in The Gambia and then moved into a career in the emergency side of development, working in refugee camps in Uganda, Kosovo, and Macedonia. The last ten years have been focused on longer-term development, mostly in the field of public health in various countries in Africa.

Most recently, Nick accepted a position with IntraHealth International, an international NGO focused on health workers worldwide. In his role, Nick is responsible for backstopping the programming in Namibia, refining project management tools, and co-facilitating IntraHealth's leadership program.

In reflecting on his work internationally, Nick asserts that one of the main attractions for working abroad is having an opportunity to work with people from all walks of life and experiencing and learning about so many different cultures. He states, "Having lived in numerous African countries, it's just a pleasure to be able to meet people from different places and learn about their cultures and appreciate how

Follow IDS on these Social Networks



Facebook

The 'International Development Studies (IDS) at Ohio University' group on Facebook is a great place to post news articles, and photos with current and former IDS students, as well as engage in discussion with one another.



LinkedIn

If you're on LinkedIn, be sure to join the 'Ohio University International Development Studies' group, where you can connect with current IDS students and alumni of the program. A perfect place to make and sustain professional connections.

similar we are but how different we can be at the same time.” With this being said, Nick admits that there are some challenges to working with a multicultural team. He believes that, although managing a team of international staff is fantastic, it can be challenging as each individual has a different educational background, they learn differently, and they also communicate differently.

Closing his talk with some valuable take-homes, Nick suggested that we take people out to lunch. In

other words, nurture your network. Pay attention to the peers, supervisors, friends in the business, etc., that you come in contact with - foster your relationships and stay connected. In addition, Nick suggests that students consider working in the emergency field of development. It is a great way to see the world, experience amazing situations, and also get your foot in the door. He states, “emergencies allow you to have significant levels of responsibility because of the nature of intensity of the work.”

PRESENTER: FAITH KNUTSEN



For Faith Knutsen, IDS program alumnus and current Associate Director of Operations at TechGROWTH Ohio, her career path has led her in anything but a straight line. During her Development Practitioner Series lecture, on February 22, she shared some of her

journey, stating that the title of her journey thus far has been “Carpe diem!” (Seize the Day). She emphasizes, “You can think of it as, ‘Seize the day, seize the wonderful things that happens’, or you can think of it as ‘Oh my God, seize whatever comes along.’ And that’s, more or less (speaking about the second definition), what I generally did.”

Growing up in Athens, OH, Faith received her BA in English Literature from Oberlin University in the hopes of becoming a published author. After graduating in 1984, and not really knowing where to go from there, Faith had her first “oh my God, seize whatever comes along” moment, which ultimately led her to a summer in an Alaskan fish cannery, a Euro-rail trip, and 3 years working for Peace Corps in, what was then, Zaire.

After coming back from her time abroad in the Peace Corps, Faith seized her next opportunity, going back to school to complete her MA in International Affairs from Ohio University. Once graduating, and with the help of Dr. Bob Walter,

Faith acquired internships at the US State Department in the Central Africa Republic and USAID, where she learned more about embassy work and what program construction, evaluation, and consultation entailed.

Other opportunities that Faith has seized throughout her career include working for Tropical Research & Development, Inc., a consulting firm in which she was a project manager; working for Sunpower, Inc., the family’s business in which she was the director of contracts, export, and administration; and most recently, working for TechGROWTH Ohio, where she currently has operational oversight over \$21 million of Ohio University’s state-sponsored program to advice and fund technology-based businesses.

With her position with TechGROWTH Ohio, Faith says that she often tells colleagues that she went to Africa to learn what she does now in Southeastern Ohio. The skills Faith acquired in Africa, in her graduate classroom experience, in every interaction with people that she has had along the way, applies to what she is currently doing. Specifically with regards to development, there is a lot more similarities than differences when thinking about developing small-scale beekeepers selling their honey in Zaire and developing small-scale entrepreneurs in rural Southeast Ohio.

In reflecting on her career path thus far, Faith states that “the journey was entirely happenstance rather than planned. Rather than starting my life knowing that I wanted to have a particular career,

I started out my life thinking that I wanted to write books and that I was going to be an at-home mother... So when I went to college, I truly did not have a career plan in mind. And when I graduated with a degree in English Literature, I truly, in my senior year of my undergraduate career, had no idea what I was going to do the next year." Since then, Faith's life has been all about seizing opportunities, rather than following a specific plan.



AFFILIATED FACULTY

Coming to Ohio University in 2006, Dr. Tania Basta is an associate professor with the Department of Social and Public Health at Ohio University. Her research focuses on HIV prevention in rural Appalachia and she is currently doing a study on HIV testing and increasing the access of HIV testing. Dr. Basta is also the associate director of the Appalachian rural Health Institute (ARHI), where she provides support to faculty interested in conducting community engaged research in the area. In her free time, Dr. Basta enjoys spending time with her kids, especially out doors, playing the violin and piano, working out, and vacationing anywhere warm, tropical, and near a beach.

If you've ever taken a class from Dr. Tania Basta, you know that she is passionate about what she does and is eager to help students succeed. Getting her start at Indiana University, Dr. Basta graduated with a Bachelors of Science in Exercise Science and then moved on to work with Work Site Health where she promoted various health activities for a large insurance company in Indianapolis. During her time there, Dr. Basta realized that she enjoyed the health promotion prevention piece much more than the exercise-training piece of Exercise Science, and thus, after three years of working with Work Site Health, Dr. Basta went back to school, earning a Masters in Public Health with a focus on Community Health Education. After graduating with her masters from Indiana University, Dr. Basta completed a PhD in Health Behavior at the University of Georgia. Although initially focusing her dissertation research on health behavior in terms of worksite health, she shifted her focus to assisting HIV positive individuals with their quality of life. This stemmed from her time in Kenya working with HIV positive individuals and her work experience with Positive Impact, an HIV organization that provided mental health services to both individuals who were HIV positive and their family members.

After completing her PhD, Dr. Basta started to apply for teaching positions in the Midwest and in 2006, she accepted a position as an Associate

Professor with the Department of Social and Public Health at Ohio University. Currently, Dr. Basta's research focuses on HIV prevention in rural Appalachia, looking at the difficulty that HIV positive individuals face in getting connected to treatment in the area. In addition, Dr. Basta recently started a study on HIV testing and increasing the access of HIV testing, focusing mainly on HIV prevention, linking people into care, and increasing the awareness and knowledge of HIV in the region. Her interest in rural Appalachia, community-based work, and HIV stems not only from having worked with individuals who were HIV positive, but also from various places and people that Dr. Basta has had the opportunity to interact and work with as well.

In addition to her position as an Associate Professor with the Department of Social and Public Health, Dr. Basta is also involved with the Appalachian Rural Health Institute (ARHI) as their current associate director. Working under ARHI's mission to "improve the health status and quality of life for Appalachian populations", Dr. Basta is responsible for facilitating rural Appalachian health research by providing support to faculty interested in conducting community-engaged research in this area.

As an affiliate faculty of International Development Studies (IDS), Dr. Basta believes that Health Promotion, offered Spring semester,

and Behavior Theory and Community Health Programs, offered Fall semester, are classes that would benefit IDS students. When asked why public health is important to the development field, Dr. Basta states, “They obviously go hand in hand. You can’t do one without the other.” She elaborates on this, asserting that thinking about development without considering public health systems and the impact on public health is a huge missed opportunity. In addition, given all the diseases and conditions that are endemic in different countries, addressing public health issues without looking at the impact of development on prevention and treatment can create significant problems.

Like many other affiliate faculty, Dr. Basta enjoys the diversity that IDS students bring to the classroom. As someone who enjoys traveling and is committed to global health, Dr. Basta believes that having individuals from different backgrounds is not only essential, but that having different

perspectives and varying backgrounds adds to a rich discussion to her classes. In addition, having been a committee member to a number of different students from the Center for International Studies, Dr. Basta is exposed to a lot of interesting work around the world which keeps her excited about what she does.

As another academic school year is quickly coming to a close, Dr. Basta hopes her students will remember this: “The higher you go, the less you know.” Dr. Basta believes that this is important for graduate students to remember as there is always something you can learn. In addition, she states, “Although graduate students have the skill set to think through problems, it is ok if you get into your first job and you’re confused and anxious and feel like you don’t know everything. That’s perfectly normal. But you have the skills needed to analyze the problem, come up with a set of solutions, and then implement them.”



AFFILIATED FACULTY

Dr. Judith Millesen is an associate professor at the Voinovich School of Leadership and Public Affairs at Ohio University and the director of the University's MPA programs. Her research focuses on nonprofit administration and capacity building, with a special interest in board governance. In addition, Dr. Millesen is the founder of the Regional Nonprofit Alliance, an organization dedicated to strengthening nonprofit organizations in rural Appalachia through the provision of affordable workshops, online resources, and hands-on help, and teaches classes on nonprofit management, public administration, and nonprofit fundraising. Outside of the university, you are bound to see her hanging out with her kids, whether that's coaching her daughter's softball team, watching her son at tae-kwon-do, or traveling together as a family.

Dr. Judith Millesen, a professor who came to the Department of Political Science at Ohio University (OU) in 2000, is one who has a passion for the nonprofit sector and governance. Her enthusiasm is contagious. Just take one of her classes and you will find yourself challenged to rethink and redefine your perceptions of nonprofit work.

After graduating with her Bachelor of Science in Business Studies from Richard Stockton College, Dr. Millesen worked for 10 years in the nonprofit sector as a community-based fundraiser at various nonprofit organizations and as a development officer at The College of New Jersey. Following a guest lecturing in an English class and realizing very

few knew about the nonprofit world, Dr. Millesen decided to go back to school and get her PhD so she could teach others about the nonprofit sector.

In 2003, she graduated from the University at Albany (SUNY) earning a PhD in Public Administration. During her time there, she decided to focus her dissertation work on the nonprofit sector, specifically with governance. Dr. Millesen declares that this was the best decision that she ever made. She states, “I love working with boards of directors; I love being in a room full of people who voluntarily give away their money, their expertise, and their time to something that they care about... It’s a great opportunity to be with people who really like what they are doing.”

Dr. Millesen's current research is an extension of her dissertation in which she focuses on governance and philanthropy. In terms of philanthropy, Dr. Millesen looks at how philanthropic dollars can be used to leverage change in their communities. In addition to her role as a professor, Dr. Millesen is also the founder of the Regional Nonprofit Alliance. Based out of OU's Vionovich School of Leadership and Public Affairs, the Regional Nonprofit Alliance was founded in 2008, and was funded, in part, through a grant from the Sugar Bush Foundation. Its goal is to help in building the capacity of local nonprofits through affordable workshops, hands-on help, and online resources.

In 2006, Dr. Millesen was a visiting professor at the School of Management in Bocconi University,

Milan, Italy, and is currently a visiting professor at the Department of Public Administration in Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University (NMMU), Port Elizabeth, South Africa. She is also working with Dr. Walter in developing a nonprofit/development management certificate that will encompass courses that will look at project management, civic engagement and participation, understanding fundamentals of administration concepts, budget, fundraising, constituents, stakeholders, etc..

In talking about her hope for IDS students as they enter their careers, Dr. Millesen asserts, "Don't underestimate people. Don't underestimate what people have to contribute. And leave yourself open to be a continual learner. You can learn in all kinds of different places, and if we do anything here, I hope we instill a desire for inquiry and curiosity."

CATCHING UP WITH ALUMNI

In reflecting on her career path and the experiences it provided, Karina Quintans, graduate of Ohio University's International Development Studies Program in 1997, will tell you that she has been on quite a journey. After graduating with her Bachelor's in Finance, Karina worked in the business sector for about five years. Feeling unsatisfied and bored in her work, and with her interests and international background tugging at her, Karina started to explore her options. This led her to Ohio University (OU) where she discovered her niche. "I felt that through this major, I would be able to better understand and process everything I had seen and experienced growing up overseas, and then have a career through which I could contribute to solving those issues."

After graduating from Ohio University, Karina's career path as an independent consultant has been anything but your typical development career. In addition to being involved in various international and rural development projects, including working on a USAID-funded project in Jakarta, Indonesia and being part of Rural Action Incorporation in Trimble, Ohio, Karina has a wealth of experience in proposal writing. She was

also the co-founder and director of World Bamboo Organization, an international networking and advocacy organization focused on the planning of the 7th World



Karina Quintans

Bamboo Congress in New Delhi, India. Karina states that, although her opportunities are attributed to happenstance, people are the common denominator as most of her opportunities have come through networking and talking with people. In addition, Karina sees herself as a skills-based professional, a generalist hired for the several skills she has to offer, and embodying the essence of an interdisciplinary student. "I have the ability to see and understand many perspectives because of my experience working in so many different types of organizations, and interacting with so many

different departments within organizations as well.”

Karina recently took a position with an Alaska Native Regional Corporation, called Ahtna Engineering Services, where, as a business and technical writer, she pursues contracts that will cleanup previously contaminated sites located in small villages across the remote and austere Alaskan environment. Although this position may not be considered a typical development job, Karina finds many connections in her job to development work. She states, “I am sure it is broadly known that Alaska faces many development challenges because of its rich natural resources, including oil resources. Couple that with the history of Alaskan Natives, comprised of many different tribal affiliations, each with rich and complex cultures, and some who still live in subsistence economies, along with their loss of land to European Americans, we have a very similar situation studied during my time at OU.”

Reflecting on her time at OU, Karina asserts that her most valuable experiences came out of three conscious choices she made during her time there - face every fear 100% head on, interact and talk with as many people as possible, and get

involved to the absolute extent possible. Even today, Karina practices these choices as a means to add more value to the change process and become more effective and productive in what she does, both at work and in the community where she lives.

Karina’s advice to IDS students is not only to be a specialist in a particular field, but also to develop people skills as well. “The biggest lesson that I have learned and confronted over and over and over again is that the work you train for in school is the easy part. The hard part, which no one really tells you about, is that working with people of different personalities and styles is the biggest challenge of any position you can get. It can make or break your success and happiness in the work place. I can’t emphasize this enough. I’ve seen and experienced it in the public and private sectors, in domestic and international organizations. It doesn’t matter what field of work you are in, learning to work effectively with others, to be able to “read people”, understand, tolerate, manage, coordinate with others who you may not see eye to eye with, makes an enormous difference. Expect difficulty when it comes to people. Go into any situation expecting the possibility of conflict. But learn to manage it.”

EXAMINING THE ROLE OF SOCIAL MEDIA IN THE POST-9/11 EXPERIENCES OF MUSLIM IMMIGRANT WOMEN IN NEW YORK CITY

A Student Highlight on Rudaba Nasir



Rudaba Nasir did her bachelor's degree in Economics from Lahore University of Management Sciences, Pakistan's premier education institute. After graduation, Rudaba worked with two major USAID-funded development projects in Pakistan, one implemented by RELief International and Citizen' Network for Foreign Affairs and the other by Chemonics International Inc..

Rudaba is currently in the final semester of the International Development Studies program. Since September 2011, she has been working closely with the UNICEF-Ohio University Learning Course on Communication for Development, where she is in-charge of a number of project management tasks.. Last summer, Rudaba went to Germany on a study-abroad program, studying international media and cross-cultural communication. Rudaba then traveled to Nigeria in March, 2013 to conduct research on theater for social change, which drew on her decade-long experience as a performance artist in Pakistan. Her Master's thesis examines the role of social media in the post-9/11 lived experiences, identity construction, and integration of and solidarity amongst Pakistani Muslim immigrant women living in New York City post-9/11.

Graduating this Spring with a Masters in International Affairs, IDS student Rudaba Nasir has been more than busy with her Master's thesis project. Examining the role of social media in the post-9/11 lived experiences, identity construction, and integration of and solidarity amongst Pakistani Muslim immigrant women living in New York City post-9/11, Rudaba's thesis combines her passions for gender, social change, and communication. Although her background is with rural communities in Pakistan, specifically working with rural women on various issues, such as agriculture and value chains, crisis management, enterprise development, capacity building, and livelihood generation, Rudaba decided to branch out and work on development project communications and public awareness, as the use of media and communication strategies in achieving social change was an interest of hers. Realizing that the projects she produced and posted were more successful in gaining the interest of project beneficiaries, and alongside her decade long performing arts career centered on raising awareness regarding social issues, such as women's empowerment, Rudaba naturally combined her interests in gender, communication, and development once attending OU.

Once identifying her broad research themes, Rudaba took advantage of her physical presence in the U.S. and decided to work with Pakistani Muslim immigrant women living in New York City. Choosing New York City because it not only houses the largest Pakistani Diaspora in the U.S., but also provides a perfect opportunity to fully grasp how Pakistani Muslim immigrant women's lives have

changed since 9/11, Rudaba states that "New York City offers a complex and challenging backdrop against which this research is playing out."

Rudaba asserts that her influences in choosing this particular topic stem not only from her intrigue in social media and its power to make a difference, but also from her communication and development courses. They gave her a good theoretical basis, as did her work with UNICEF which provided the opportunity to work with some of the most brilliant minds in the field of communication for social change.

Rudaba has found her research work gratifying, stating that personally, "this research is rewarding to me because it gives me the opportunity to look at development issues in an urban context, something that I have had limited experience with." Professionally, Rudaba states that her research has not only never been done before, but it has also provided her participants a space to express a myriad of emotions and share their stories of daily trials, discrimination, isolation, coping mechanisms, and culture shock. In addition, Rudaba emphasizes that the social dimension of her research is pertinent to the worldwide exponential boom in Information and Communication Technologies. She is also excited to bring her findings out into the open, hoping that it will be the first step in improving the quality of life of the Pakistani Muslim Diaspora.

Despite the several rewards of her research, Rudaba has had some challenges, specifically, in regards to access. "My research participants proved to be extremely private and cautious about what they revealed in front of 'strangers'. Hence, it was very difficult for me to convince them, especially married housewives with young children, to talk to me. The second layer of this problem was that even if I did finally manage to convince a participant to talk to me, she would be very wary about revealing controversial details of her life. This made some interviews sound like PR/image management pieces lacking critical thinking and insights." Although surprised by the lack of trust and comfort, as Rudaba thought she was a member of the community, she turned this obstacle into a learning opportunity. Utilizing her training from OU in qualitative methods, Rudaba recognized the importance of silence, and as a result, was able to identify meaningful discourse from participants' silence that ultimately informed her research findings.

In terms of development, Rudaba contends that her research is significant in that it links the lived experiences of Pakistani Muslim women living in the U.S. to issues surrounding immigrant and gender identity construction, belonging, empowerment, solidarity, and social media. This connection between gender, media, and immigration is rarely made, especially within the context of Pakistan. In addition, Rudaba states,

“This research provides an opportunity to assess whether or not the access, use, adaptation, creation, and interpretation of social media content can contribute to the systematic empowerment and integration of, not just this particular Diaspora community, but perhaps also others in different parts of the world.”

For students who are beginning their research, Rudaba suggests not only taking courses in research methods before entering the field, but getting some practice in as well. In addition, she recommends giving yourself sufficient time to plan and implement your research.

Lastly, when asked what her plans are from here, Rudaba jokingly exclaims, “That is a very tricky question and perhaps not a good idea to ask a stressed out grad student buried in her thesis.” Ideally, Rudaba would like to extract shorter articles from her thesis in hopes to have them published in various journals. In addition, Rudaba states, “I would also like to present papers on different aspects of my research, such as the role of social media, the idea of solidarity, and the idea of empowerment, at relevant gender, as well as communication for social change, conferences.”

INTERNSHIP EXPERIENCE WITH WORLD VISION U.S.

A Student Highlight on Zachary Lawless

If you’ve noticed that second year IDS student, Zachary Lawless, has been absent all semester, he has been. That’s because Zachary has been busy with an internship with World Vision U.S. Applying online to one of their internship positions, Zachary was offered the job only three weeks later and is currently working at the D.C. office in the Humanitarian and Emergency Affairs (HEA) department.

Zachary states that his workday differs everyday and is dependent on what his team’s priorities are and where they need help. His primary role is in assisting the staff members of HEA in their daily occupational needs and gleaning from their extensive experience. In addition, Zachary states that about 85% of the projects on which he works are either directly or indirectly related to various grant documents. Additionally, he also has had the pleasure of leading other interns and staff members in devotions and prayers and attending office affiliated chapel services.

When asked about what has been most rewarding about his time at World Vision, Zachary states, “Meeting so many great people who are passionate about development and relief, and who also emphasize the need for holistic/transformational development (of which one component is spiritual development). The internship has provided a phenomenal platform for me to connect with people who have dedicated their lives to alleviating poverty in some capacity.

Additionally, the internship has allowed me to attend meetings led by OFDA, USAID, InterAction, and various development NGOs.”

With this being said, Zachary admits that there have been some challenges. He asserts that World Vision is an extremely complex organization and he is still trying to comprehend fully how it operates. With all the various offices involved (support offices, national offices, field offices, World Vision U.S. and World Vision International), it is often difficult to figure out reporting guidelines and how communication is facilitated.

For students going into internship or currently seeking internships, Zachary states that although it helps to know someone from the inside, this was not the case for him. Thus, his advice is to apply to the organization that you dream of working for, because anything is possible. On a practical level, Zachary asserts, “I would encourage students to somehow connect with and leave a solid impression on those in HR when submitting your application. If you accomplish this, you are much more likely to make it to the second round of interviews.” And if you do acquire an internship, Zachary advises students to volunteer for everything you possibly can, even though you may think you are not qualified. “Organizations want to see drive and ambition from their interns.”

As graduation creeps even closer, Zachary is looking forward to a new chapter in his life. Recently moving to Bowie, MD with his wife,

Zachary states, "As DC is the hub for international development, it makes sense for us to be near the city as I pursue landing a job in my field of study." It is his hope to join a development/relief organization that will eventually lead him to working in a developing context.

CHANGES AND ADDITIONS TO THE IDS PROGRAM

Since the beginning of this academic year, there have been three significant additions to the program. First, the Development Practitioners Lecture Series began, bringing to campus both seasoned professionals in development, as well as alumni of the program who are development practitioners in a variety of organizations. The goal is to have one presentation each month. This addition will continue into next year. Second, we created an Internship databank as a source of information to students in the program who want to pursue having one. This project is an ongoing one and continually in search of additional opportunities. Students have used it this year to locate possibilities. Third, we added a technical concentration to the four we currently have in the program requirements. The four existing ones are environment, gender, health, and social sciences (in which there are several tracks - economic policy, public administration, international education, etc.) The new addition is Development and Sports. This is a result of working with the Sports Administration program at Ohio University and with the inspiration of select alumni who have created innovative activities for linking sports and development. This concentration fits very well with the Sports Administration's annual conference on Sports, Development, and Africa. It also will include the journal focused in this topic, IMPUMELELO, which is an online publication of the Sports Administration and IDS. We believe this gives the IDS a unique position among development studies programs in the United States.

Even more additions/changes are coming. I want to mention three that are planned for the next year. First, and very importantly, I will be creating a two-level mentoring program within IDS. At the first level, our incoming cohort group each year will have second-year students who will

act as mentors. Each first-year student will have her/his personal mentor to help with selection of classes, adjusting to the Athens community, the OU campus, and generally to advise. I believe this will have multiple benefits in assisting students to succeed in IDS. The second level is between second-year students and alumni of IDS. Each second-year will have an alumni mentor to assist with the transition from graduate school and the work world. The alumni mentors will advise on opportunities, how to search for positions, the various organizations, and on advice for the change. If you are an alumni and willing to act as a mentor, please let me know. I am will be looking for as many as are willing to assist.

Second, I want to add at least one additional concentration on management issues in Development. I will be working with Professor Judith Millesen of the Public Administration program at OU (see her feature in this newsletter) to create this concentration. Management issues are very critical in making development efforts successful. Students entering in the fall semester of 2014 will have this option available to them.

Third, we will be adding a strengthened link to our relationship with the Healthy Living Initiative (HLI) of the Tropical Disease Institute at Ohio University. In addition to providing students to HLI for classes, for field experience in Ecuador, and for assistance with the HLI program, we now will have a named graduate assistantship (GA), called the Healthy Living Initiative GA. Applicants to the IDS program who are awarded this GA will be assigned to work exclusively with Professor Mario Grijalva in HLI.

9TH ANNUAL SPORTS IN AFRICA SYMPOSIUM

On Friday, April 12, 2013, Ohio University hosted the 9th annual Sports in Africa Symposium, an effort of collaboration from Center of International Studies, African Studies Department, the Department of Sports Administration, the Institute for the African Child, the Recreation and Sports Pedagogy Program, the Office of Multicultural Programs, and the College of Health Sciences and Professionals.

In addition to a student Global Sports forum and a faculty panel, Ohio University welcomed Carol Garoes, co-founder and secretary general of the African Women in Sports Association (AWISA), as the keynote speaker at the Symposium. Garoes is a leading advocate in utilizing the sports industry as a means to create both socioeconomic and sustainable development opportunities throughout Africa and is also dedicated in promoting gender equality through the sports industry medium. She co-founded and is the president of the Confederation of African Netball Associations and is the current Africa representative to the International Working Group (IWG) on Women and Sports.

Garoes, who is from Namibia, spoke about how sports has been used as an agent of development in Africa, particularly looking at her work with AWISA. She touched on the number of challenges seen in sports throughout Africa but conceded that this was a conversation that could last all year. It is encouraging to note that AWISA now has a presence in almost all Namibian sport organizations, with the focus of gender equality and a goal of ensuring the inclusion of women and girls.

Second year IDS student, Courtney Ward, was present at the symposium and states, "The Sport in Africa conference was a unique opportunity to hear about OU students' work with sport in developing areas. Similarly, the keynote speaker provided an inspiring look at the way women are able to use sport in Africa to foster leadership skills, assertiveness, and empowerment as females. It was also great to have professors from West Virginia University come and talk to us about the work being done at their institution for sport in Africa. Since this is an emerging field, I am already looking forward to next year's forum to see what has developed with sport throughout the developing world."