

Emerging Ideas

The Newsletter of The International
Development Studies Program

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT STUDIES DIRECTOR TO GO ON SABBATICAL

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From the Director:

The life of a college professor is tied to the academic calendar. The end of a school year is always a time of ambivalence: eagerness to finish a year, excitement at the prospect of time for other pursuits, whether research, travel, or just time to zone out; but also sadness at saying goodbye, however temporarily, to students, colleagues, projects, and the routines of campus life. This year, the contrast feels particularly intense, since after spending the year becoming immersed in learning the ropes of International Development Studies, I now will take a year of sabbatical to work on research projects, old

and new, before once again jumping into the IDS whirlwind. I have thoroughly enjoyed learning about and from development studies and its great and varied cast of characters: students, faculty, Center for International Studies staff, guest speakers, alumni, and many, many more. As in all things, there have been both low and high points, mistakes made and hopefully learned from, sad and even tragic events, but also many highlights and quiet satisfactions. For students who are graduating, thank you for your assistance and forbearance during the past year, and the best of luck in the next phases of your lives and careers. For continuing students,

it has been a great adventure learning with you and I will miss seeing the sequel, but know that it will go well. Next year, Dr. Elizabeth Collins, Associate Professor of Philosophy and former Director of Southeast Asia Studies, will return from a year spent on a Fulbright in Indonesia to be the Interim Director of International Development Studies. It is a great satisfaction to welcome her and to know that the program will be in such good hands. In the meantime, it has been a good year, and I look forward to another when I return in fall, 2004.

Ann R. Tickamyer

IDS WELCOMES RACHEL TOMPKINS TO OHIO UNIVERSITY

By: Andy Lavelle

On Friday, May 30th, IDS welcomed Rachel Tompkins from The Rural School and Community Trust to give a lecture looking at the effects of closing and consolidating rural American schools. Tompkins argued that closing schools is detrimental to rural communities because education is an important part of development and schools contribute to the economic growth of a community. One of the keys to success in maintaining rural schools, according to Tompkins, is to design curriculum that engages the students to analyze the real world problems facing their communities.



IDS BIDS FAREWELL TO OUR GRADUATING STUDENTS

EMERGING IDEAS

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Andrew Carlson, USA

Andrew's area of focus was African and gender studies, with language studies of Swahili, Arabic, and siSwati, thanks to the opportunity to receive FLAS fellowships. He participated in conferences given by the Institute for The African Child on HIV/AIDS and the African Child, and Islam and the African Child, and traveled to South Africa last summer to do work around the issue of media and children affected by HIV/AIDS. He helped to organize 2 conferences on world issues, specifically the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and the war in Iraq. His thesis research is on the persistence and transmission of cultural knowledge through religious practices in the Somali refugee community of Columbus, Ohio. He has also begun work on a documentary video project about Meigs County, Ohio, for use as a development tool. Along with two classmates, Sandra Valenzuela and Jesse Gaither, he has started a consulting company to provide a variety of services focused around development issues, NGOs, and governmental agencies. Post graduation plans are to develop the capacity and contacts of this organization, and the possibility of PhD work.

Carlos Recordon Dagieu, Mexico



Carlos came to OU as Fulbright Scholar with undergraduate degrees in Literature and Journalism, and Business Management. His interests focus on the relationship between education and human and economic development, and on processes and policies that should be designed to increase education and its effects on the well being of people. While at OU, he was involved in several extra curricular activities, he was the Commissioner of International Affairs of the Student Senate, and the President of the Latin American Students Association.



Sabrina Ennis, USA

Sabrina's concentration during the program was in economics and Latin America. Upon graduation, she will be starting law school at Ohio State University in August. Her focus will be on studying issues of international law and alternative dispute resolution.

Daniel Ogbaharya, Eritrea

Daniel has a BA in Political Science. He has interned with the Eritrean Development Foundation (EDF) in Maryland, USA in the Summer of 2002. Daniel will enroll in a PhD program in Political Science focusing on Comparative Politics/International Relations in the Fall of 2003 at Northern Arizona University.



Vitalia Krasnogolov (Deryabina), Ukraine

Vitalia is an Edmund S. Muskie fellow and her area of concentration in Economics. Last summer she had an internship as Assistant Director with Kids on Campus. She is also a cultural consultant for Ohio Valley International Council. The greatest event for her during her studies was the birth of her daughter Evelina in November 2002. After graduation she plans to go home and seek a position with an international organization.

Alex Owusu, Ghana

Alex's concentration was in Environmental Studies and Policy and Planning. He held an internship with the Monday Creek Watershed Restoration Projects (Appalachia OH) during Spring 2002. Alex's research focus has been on the application of Drama in Community-based HIV/AIDS Education in Ghana, and in applying GIS technique in Urban Green Development in Ghana. Alex plans on finding work internationally in the field of Development, Health and Environment for about three years and then plans to return to Ghana to pursue a private Consultancy Business.



Sarah Pasela, USA

Sarah's concentration is in health and Africa. She has been a FLAS fellow two years for the study of Swahili and Gikuyu languages. She has also been a TA, teaching a microbiology lab. She is planning on getting a second masters in education and would like to teach life sciences in secondary school. After that, she would like to return to Africa.

Rodrigo Paredes, Ecuador

Rodrigo has interned with the Environmental Management Department of Vintage Oil Company - Ecuador. The training experience took place between Quito, the capital city, and the Ecuadorian rain forest during winter break of 2002-2003.





Pavel Prytup, Russia

According to Pavel, the most important event during his time at OU was marrying his wife, Betsy in November 2002. After graduation they are moving to Toledo and a year later to Russia. Career wise, he is happy to be a househusband for now, especially since the humanitarian job market is barely alive! In Russia, however, they hope to work to bring together Russian Orthodox and Protestant churches for the sake of local community needs. Whether that means working with some established organization or starting something from zero -- time will show. Otherwise, they may go to Korea to teach English -- to pay back the college debts!

Mai Tagawa, Japan

Mai's concentration in development studies was in education. She has helped organize two IDS conferences with other classmates; one was on the Middle East and the other was on Iraq. She has been a member of the Japanese Student Association and planned a few events to introduce Japanese culture to OU students and community. After graduation, she plans to go back to Japan and find a job.



Mito Takeuchi, Japan.



Mito graduated from Chubu University, Japan, in March, 2001. She had come to Ohio University as an exchange student from Chubu University during a part of her sophomore year. Her concentration in development studies is in environmental studies. She is also pursuing Environmental Studies as a second master's degree. She will intern in a Japanese environmental NGO, the OISCA International, during the coming summer in the Philippines. After she completes both programs, she hopes to work for an international or bilateral development agency.

Sandra Valenzuela, Colombia

Sandra is a lawyer from El Rosario University in Colombia and holds a special degree in Environmental Law. She worked at the Environmental Ministry for six years and now, she is a Fulbright Scholar focusing on environmental and public policies in Latin America. Last summer, she was a research assistant in the World Resource Institute in Washington, DC. Her future plans include working for an international organization and in her own consultant corporation Dunia Development. She also pursued a Dual Master's Program with Environmental Studies. Her areas of concentration are environmental policies and conflict dispute resolution.





Iryna Zayachuk, Ukraine

Iryna is an Edmund Muskie Graduate Fellow and concentrated on International Economic Development during her time at OU. She interned with the Economic Development Program at the U.S.-Ukraine Foundation in Washington D.C. She has also participated in and presented at numerous conferences, such as Convention of the Association for the Study of Nationalities, Columbia University, the Conference on Baltic States, Johns Hopkins University, the International Atlantic Economic Society Annual Conference, Washington D.C.,

and at the Round Table on Small and Medium Business Development, Foreign Investment, Governance, Financial Reform and Economic Policy organized by the United Nations University in Helsinki. Iryna has also co-authored two articles with professors at Ohio University on the economic transition of the Baltic States and on Foreign Direct Investment. Iryna will be graduating from OU with the Ohio University Outstanding Master's Student Award 2003.

A NOTE ON THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON THE PROSPECTS OF CONFEDERATION IN THE HORN OF AFRICA

Thanks to the travel grant from International Development Studies and African Studies, I was able to attend an international conference on the Prospects for Confederation in the Horn of Africa in Tampa, Florida from November 14-15. Organized jointly by the University of South Florida and the U.S. Africa Foundation, the conference looked into social, economic and political areas in which "confederation" of the countries of the Horn of Africa, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Somalia, Djibouti and Sudan, could be pursued.

A range of important and critical issues regarding the possibilities of greater regional cooperation were

raised in the different sections of the two day conference. The need for trespassing historical and political differences in favor of the common interest of the region, greater democratization and empowerment of the peoples of the Horn of Africa, greater regional networking of civil societies, increased involvement of international and regional non-government organizations, the development of effective dispute resolution mechanisms and the formation of an Institute for East African Studies were some of the main recommendations the conference discussed.

Possessing a strong personal and research interest in the Horn of Af-

rica, I found the conference to be a very enlightening and rewarding experience. It has influenced my thoughts and aspirations for the region substantially and has enriched my graduate experience at OU. Consequently, I encourage my colleagues in International development Studies to consider the travel opportunities that the department in particular and the Center for International Studies in general have to offer.

-Daniel G. Ogbaharya, 2nd year, Development Studies

WINTER BREAK IN CUBA-Sabrina Ennis

From December 1 through 13, 2002, United Campus Ministry organized an alternative winter break experience through Witness for Peace to Cuba. The group that went included graduate students in Development Studies, Latin American Studies, Communication and Development Studies, Special education, and undergraduate students from a variety of backgrounds including business, Spanish, and psychology, as well as professors and community members. During this trip the group met with Cuban government officials, US interests section officer, Cuban economists and historians. We also met with Cuban families, adults, and youth to talk about the current situation in Cuba and the role United States foreign policy has played in Cuba's struggle for development. Other topics included the presence of HIV/AIDS in Cuba, the impact of a Free Trade Area of the Americas on Cuba, machismo and women's role in Cuban society, the social/human development programs implemented by the Cuban government, and the current political system and political and civil freedoms in Cuba.



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CONGRATULATIONS TO:

IDS would like to congratulate Iryna Zayachuk for receiving the "Outstanding Master's Student Award," Pavel Prytup for his marriage in November 2002, and to all graduating IDS students. Good luck with your future plans!!!

CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL POLICY MEMBERS GIVE "TALK ON COLOMBIA" By: Andrew Lavelle

On April 17th the Latin American Studies Program welcomed Robert White and Adam Isacson, two respected members of the Washington based think-tank, Center for International Policy, to give a talk on American foreign policy in Colombia. White had served as ambassador to Paraguay and El Salvador as well as a counter-narcotics officer at the US Embassy in Colombia during the 1970s. Isacson has worked for CIP since 1995 and coordinates a program that monitors American military assistance to Latin America and the Caribbean.

White began the talk sharing some of personal experiences and challenges he faced working in Colombia. He criticized US policy for reducing the social, political and economic complexities of Colombia down to a single issue, drugs. He argued that American aid to fight coca production and drug trafficking is increasingly used for counter-insurgency operations against the left-wing FARC who have become deeply involved in the narco-trafficking since the fall of the major cartels in Colombia during the early 1990s. Most of the aid goes to the Colombian military who has been accused of human

rights violations and, until recently, maintained ties to the right-wing AUC, a paramilitary group accused of human rights violations and drug trafficking. One of the centerpieces of anti-narcotics policy in Colombia has been the aerial fumigation of coca fields.

Essentially, the war against drugs is carried out against the coca producers, largely impoverished peasants farmers involved in cultivation of coca because there are few alternative crops that bring in the same, albeit small, income. According to White, this policy attacks the "the least crucial link" in the drug trade and virtually ignores the role that "businessmen, bankers, transportation companies and the government" play in an "operation of this magnitude," referring to the billions of dollars generated annually from the sale of cocaine.

Isacson continued the talk detailing Colombia's fragmented political landscape, deep socio-economic inequalities, and multi-racial composition. He argued that Colombia's wide gap between rich and poor, lack of a true agrarian reform, and the continued assistance of the US have helped maintained a status quo that will never

bring about an end to the hostilities or the drug trade. He highlighted rural development in the Colombian countryside as one of the keys to stopping the flow of drugs into the United States. While millions of dollars have been spent on military aid and drug eradication programs, very little has gone to the development of alternative crops through economic assistance or better access to markets. The money spent on Apache helicopters could used more effectively to subsidize farmers to grow other crops than coca.

Along with alternative development, there needs to be much more attention paid to the destination market for this trade, the United States. White pointed out that in many ways the drug trade is the perfection of the capitalist system. The United States is the largest market in the world for illegal drugs and if attempts to curb the demand are not taken the supply will continue to flow. Isacson concluded the presentation arguing that the treatment of US addicts by far would the most effective way to stem the flow of cocaine from Colombia to the United States.

