

# Emerging Ideas

The Newsletter of The International  
Development Studies Program

## INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT STUDIES WELCOMES OUR NEW DIRECTOR

A warm welcome to new, continuing, and former students, faculty, and friends of International Development Studies. It is a great pleasure to join this program as its new director. This fall has been a whirlwind opportunity to become immersed in IDS affairs. Both in and out of the classroom, IDS provides wonderfully varied and flexible opportunities for examining the meaning and practices of human, social, political, and economic development in diverse contexts.

Through close interaction with students from all over the world who bring widely (and wildly) varying backgrounds and interests, I have already enriched my understanding of development issues as well as the culture and politics of different corners of the globe. I am incredibly impressed with the knowledge, seriousness, and dedication of IDS students as they pursue their studies and related passions and share them with their peers.

IDS students completing their studies have presented proposals on topics ranging from cultivating a taste for soy to augmenting educational activities for children and youth in Africa and immigrant communities in the U.S. The "Iraq Forum" was wholly initiated and produced by IDS students to examine the grave issues associated with the shadows of possible war with Iraq. We all learned from the lecture and workshop by Howard Sacks of the Rural Life Center, and The International Forum has provided an abundance of stimulating presentations, ranging from an inspiring talk on women and Islam by visiting Malaysian journalist and activist, Marina Mahathir to a spine-tingling account of the "Headhunters of the Upper Amazon," delivered by anthropology colleague, Steve Rubenstein.

All in all it has been an exhilarating initiation into IDS, and I look forward to sharing in the

future development of development studies at OU.



*Ann R. Tickamyer joins the IDS program as its new director. She is Professor of Sociology and Ohio University Presidential Research Scholar. She is a rural sociologist, a past president of the Rural Sociological Society, and past editor of its flagship journal, Rural Sociology. She conducts research on rural poverty, community, gender, work and inequality in the U.S. and Indonesia.*

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### IDS WELCOME PARTY 2002 AT DR. TICKAMYER'S HOUSE

Dr. Tickamyer held a party on Friday, September 13th to welcome the new and returning development studies students. The potluck featured a wide array of cuisine from around the world, representing the diversity of the students in the program. A good time was had by all.

## INTRODUCING FIRST YEAR IDS STUDENTS

### EMERGING IDEAS

EDITORS:  
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Sam Shebab, Yemen

Sam holds a degree in English from Sanaa University in Yemen. He was a Information Services Officer for the British Council and worked as an Environmental Management Officer for the UNDP. He plans on working for the UN again after obtaining his Master's.



Andy Lavelle, Wisconsin, United States

Andy studied at University of Wisconsin-Madison and Utrecht University in Holland. He has degrees in Political Science and International Relations. Andy volunteered for the Machu Picchu Program in Peru and is focusing on environmental issues in IDS. He hopes to work for an NGO in the future.

Manabu Hirkama, Nagoya, Japan

Manabu graduated from Chubu University in Japan with a degree in International Relations. His main interests in IDS are environmental issues facing developing nations.



Chela Moore, Wisconsin, United States

Chela is a graduate of University of Wisconsin-Green Bay with a B.S. in Biology. She worked on educational issues in the Philippines as a Peace Corp volunteer. Chela is pursuing the environmental concentration within IDS and hopes to work for the environmental NGO sector in Latin America in the future.

Josephine Dawuni, Ghana (Land of Gold)

Josephine is a barrister at law with degrees from the University of Ghana and the Ghana School of Law. She has experience working for law firms in Ghana and Louisville, KY. Her focus in IDS is on gender and public policy. She plans to work for the UN focusing on women's issues.



Kanako Moore, Japan

Kanako has a degree in International Studies from Capital University in Columbus, Ohio. She has administrative experience working for Kyushu Lutheran College's Center for Global Education and Exchange. She worked as an interpreter for the president of TS Tech in Columbus. Her focus in IDS is on environmental issues.

Shuho Otani, Japan

Shuho holds a mechanical engineering degree from Waseda University in Tokyo. She worked in the overseas wireless system development division for Fujitsu, Ltd. before coming to OU. She is focusing her studies on development on the Asia-Pacific region.





Alicya Lloyd, Trinidad & Tobago (the most beautiful island in the Southern Caribbean)  
 Alicya has a B.A. in Spanish and a M.S. in International Relations from the University of the West Indies-St. Augustine. She is a Fulbright Exchange Student, focusing on economic and political issues in development. Her future plans include working for a regional or international organization dealing with economic development in the Caribbean.

Mari Shiveley, Japan

Mari graduated from Shawnee State University with a B.A. in International Relations. After graduation Mari worked as a assistant to the executive director of the Finnish Pulp and Paper Distribution Company in Tokyo. She also has experience in teaching after school programs for elementary and high school students in the United States. Mari is focusing on health issues in developing countries.



Danielle Matta, Ohio, United States  
 Danielle is a graduate of Bucknell University with a degree in International Relations. She served with the Peace Corp in Bolivia. She worked as a manager of business development for the International Advisory Group, an organization that deals with investment in Latin America. Danielle's focus in development studies is economic policy.

Mingjung Kim, South Korea

Mingjung is a Math major from Chungnam National University in South Korea. She worked for the International Relations bureau of the Daejeon City Hall and has taught English and math at private educational institutions in South Korea. Her focus in IDS is on business and economic policy in developing nations. Mingjung hopes to work for an NGO in the United States or Canada.



Joanna Binsfeld, Wisconsin, United States  
 Joanna holds a International Business degree from University of Wisconsin-La Crosse. She interned with the International Education Office of her university and worked for the skill development department at SC Johnson Co. Upon graduation, she plans to work for the US government or pursue a PhD.

Tomoko Nishio, Japan

Tomoko holds a degree in International Business from Prefectural University of Kumamoto. She is especially interested in educational issues and international development. Her plans include working in the educational field in Japan and abroad.



Leah Barton, Iowa, United States  
 Leah is a graduate of the University of Northern Iowa with a degree in Health Promotion. As a student she worked with an organization called Global Health Corp. and interned in Cape Coast, Ghana (Land of Gold). She is focusing on health issues in IDS and hopes to work in public health issues with minorities in the United States and abroad.

Anaal Patel, California, United States

Anaal is a graduate of the University of California, San Diego with a degree in Human Development Studies. She has worked with organizations in San Diego and India that deal with education and consumer rights for women and minorities. She is focusing on social sciences in International Development Studies and hopes to work with NGOs in India that focus on women and work.





Kosuke Tamura, Japan

Kosuke holds a B.A. in Political Science from Komazawa University in Tokyo. He worked as a volunteer in adult education teaching Japanese, math and English. Kosuke plans to focus on rural development issues in Africa. His future plans include working for the nongovernmental sector and eventually for an international organization.

Tomoka Udagawa, Japan

Tomoka has a degree in English from Dokkyo University. After graduating she worked for an internet company in Japan. Tomoka is focusing on environmental issues in IDS. She plans to work for organizations dealing with preservation of ecosystems and endangered species.



Rika Inagaki, Japan

Rika holds a Law degree from Aichi-Gakuin University in Japan. She wants to focus on environmental issues in International Development Studies. Rika hopes to work for a Japanese consulting firm that deals with environmental issues in developing countries.

## HOWARD SACKS: ENPOWERING COMMUNITIES FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

By: Andy Lavelle

On Friday, October 4<sup>th</sup> the International Development Studies and Communication and Development Studies Programs welcomed Dr. Howard Sacks to Ohio University. Dr. Sacks, a Professor of Sociology, Director of the Rural Life Center, and Associate Provost at Kenyon College, gave an informative talk entitled "Empowering Communities for Sustainable Development" to students of the Center for International Studies.

His talk was based on his experiences directing projects addressing family farming, traditional music, African-American communities, and local food networks in rural Ohio. Dr. Sack's talk provided

useful and insightful information for students interested in community development or grassroots projects. He began the talk by examining some theoretical questions related to his work and explained his aversion to using the word "development" because of the underlying implication that there is some linear approach to be followed. Rather, he viewed development as an ongoing process that requires community input and involvement in order for it to be sustainable.

He also talked of the need for those involved in community projects to avoid taking an interventionist approach. Instead, one needs to be able to move freely back and forth

between the "outsider" and "insider" role. In order to do this he emphasized the need for understanding the cultures and histories of communities as an important beginning step when trying to implement projects in rural areas. Perhaps, his most important bit of information was to evaluate success incrementally.

As the lecture progressed Dr. Sacks highlighted a number of award winning successful rural community projects he oversaw in Knox County, Ohio including *The Community Within: Black Experience in Knox County*, *Rural Delivery: Family Farming Knox County*, and *Life along the Kokosing*.



Dr. Howard Sacks, Director of the Rural Life Center at Kenyon College.

## CONGRATULATIONS TO:

Second year students Andrew Carlson, Jesse Gaither, and Sarah Pasela for receiving FLAS Fellowships;

Students Charles Abonkrah, Duminda De Zoysa, Fathi Mohammed, and Julie Piloya for successfully presenting their grant proposals;

New parents Julie Piloya, Jesse Gaither, and Vitalia Krasnogolov.

## INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT STUDIES ORGANIZES SEMINAR ON THE MIDDLE EAST

By: Jesse Gaither & Anaal Patel

Accelerating tensions in the Middle East during the past 18 months have revealed a general weakness in the academic opportunities at American universities to study the Arab world. The rich history and diverse cultures of the Middle East are largely neglected in modern western academia, while media coverage of the region prefers to focus on the tragedies of the hour without investigating the causal circumstances of the events. In recognition of this deficit, the graduate students of the International Development Studies program at OU have initiated a series of discourses on issues related to the Middle East. This effort has brought together academics, politicians, and community members to investigate and debate current events in the Middle East in an atmosphere of fruitful learning aimed at broadening the perspective of the participants, while promoting a better understanding of the historical and cultural significance of the region in the modern world

context.

In May 2002 the first **Seminar on the Middle East** was held on the campus of Ohio University to discuss the cycle of violence in Israel-Palestine. The weeklong event was highlighted by documentaries, historical and cultural lectures, political analysis, and open discussions on prospects for a peaceful resolution to the conflict. The seminar culminated with a panel discussion bringing together representatives of the local Islamic and Jewish communities, Israeli- and Palestinian-Americans, historians, and journalists. While the organizers and participants recognized that the profound tribulations of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict were beyond their abilities to solve, the common vision toward a peaceful coexistence inspired constructive dialogues and generated friendships where none existed before.

This Fall, the second seminar in the series, a **Forum on Iraq**, was held to discuss the prospect of a US lead war against Iraq. The two day forum in-

cluded a presentation by retired U.S. Foreign Service officer Fred LaSor who discussed the complexity of US relations with Iraq. In addition, Todd Stewart, Director of the Homeland and International Securities Department at Ohio State University, outlined US security concerns and the reasons for diplomatic or military action against Iraq. And, Peace and Justice Network activist, Art Gish talked about US dependence on foreign oil as a major reason for the US conflict with Iraq. The forum also included the screening of a documentary about the Gulf War, which was followed by a community discussion regarding the conflict. The forum provided students and members of the community with information about a controversial issue and an opportunity to express their opinions in an academic setting.



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## MEDIA & AIDS AWARENESS IN AFRICA

By: Andrew Carlson

This summer, I spent five weeks in South Africa working for an independent media company called Vuleka Productions. Vuleka's primary focus is orphans and vulnerable children. They are located in Kwa Zulu-Natal, a region in South Africa with one of the highest rates of HIV infection in the world. They have produced audio and video programs about the topic and are working on a feature length film about a girl orphaned by AIDS. Some of the company's short

films have been screened at Sundance and Tampere film festivals, as well as in the South African media.

My main purpose for traveling to South Africa was to provide training to Vuleka's local staff on Final Cut Pro, a video production software the company has recently implemented as their main editing program. In addition, we did some on-location shooting and training in audio production.

The problem of

HIV/AIDS in South Africa is significant and a huge obstacle to development; however, there are many organizations working to provide material support to orphans and those infected with HIV. Companies like Vuleka which use media to provide psychosocial support to children and communities are the next step in developing a strategy for combating the disease and the stigma that goes along with it.



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## A SMALL VICTORY

By: Chela K. Moore

As a Peace Corps Volunteer in the Philippines, I learned many lessons. One of those lessons was to appreciate the importance of small victories, something that as development workers we must do as well. One particular project comes to mind. During my final months, I decided to organize an environmental camp. As always, when I proposed the idea, all the teachers were very excited and supportive. However, as time went by, there were fewer and fewer teachers who had time to work with me. I was frustrated. After all, I wanted the project to be “sustainable.” I considered canceling it, but my host mother (herself a teacher) assured me that the other teachers would come aboard. She said that they

needed to see that I was serious about it and that, in fact, it could be done. So, I went ahead and put together an “Environmental Olympics” – a two day camp for 45 high school students and 15 teachers. I designed games, based on popular Filipino game shows that quizzed students on environmental trivia. I organized a field trip to a cold spring. And, I taught students how to make recycled paper. In the end, I knew the camp was a success by two very small, simple things. First, when it was time for snacks, the students wouldn’t stop working. I finally had to bring the snacks to them. And, at the end, one of the teachers I most respected told me, “Che, you’ve shown us that it can be done. The

students and teachers really enjoyed themselves. We will organize a camp like this next year when you are gone.” A small victory.

