



Emerging Ideas

The Newsletter of The International Development Studies Program

WELCOMING OUR INCOMING CLASS & NEW ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR

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EMERGING IDEAS
FALL 2011

Director's Welcome Remarks:

It is a pleasure to welcome the Ohio University IDS students and affiliated faculty to campus for the beginning of the 2011-2012 academic year. We also extend warm greetings from Athens to our alumni community around the world. With this edition, we are reestablishing *Emerging Ideas* as the primary means of communicating program activities and accomplishments to the Ohio University and IDS alumni community. We will distribute the newsletter beyond the university via new platforms for reconnecting with alumni: our LinkedIn and Facebook group pages and the new IDS Twitter feed. I strongly encourage our current students, affiliated faculty, and alumni to join these groups so that we can keep you in the loop on current IDS-related developments and events (see Resource Corner, pages 7-8).



There are many new faces in Yamada International House this Fall. Dr. Courtney Cole joined the IDS program as Associate Director. Her expertise will greatly enrich the program (see below for more information on Dr. Cole). This year's incoming class is composed of 10 outstanding scholars from 7 countries, with academic backgrounds ranging from anthropology to social work. We also welcome back our 2nd year IDS cohort: 18 students who spent the summer pursuing coursework as well as internships and applied research on four continents. The current IDS students bring to classrooms across campus substantial applied development experience in addition to impressive academic accomplishments. Our students continue to be in the vanguard of interdisciplinary and international education at Ohio University.

We hope this edition of the newsletter provides a glimpse of the breadth of important work that IDS students, faculty, and alumni are pursuing. If you have suggestions for improving the newsletter or items for inclusion in the next edition (to be published in January 2012), please do not hesitate to send them directly to me at smucker@ohio.edu.

-Dr. Thomas A. Smucker

Introducing our New IDS Associate Director:

My name is Dr. Courtney Cole and I am the new Associate Director of IDS. In this position, I share advising duties with Dr. Smucker and manage communication with current students, affiliate faculty, alumni, and other friends of the IDS. I completed my PhD in Communication Studies in June 2010. In my dissertation, I examined the role of storytelling and organizational partnerships in two different post-conflict peace-building processes in the Liberian Diaspora and in Sierra Leone. Field work for this project spanned from St. Paul, Minnesota to eastern provinces of Sierra Leone between 2008 and 2010. My research and teaching center on communication, culture, and social change; the role of communication in peace and conflict; and research design and qualitative methods. In addition to my work at IDS, I also teach courses in the Communication and Development master's program. In my work, I draw on my experiences in communication and research for Habitat for Humanity International and the Women's Commission for Refugees. I am very excited to have the opportunity to work with IDS students and affiliated faculty in charting out courses of study, planning internships, and completing thesis and other final projects. In addition, I look forward to meeting many alumni of the program in the coming months, whether in person or virtually. It is a great privilege to be able to work with those who will be transforming the theory and practice of international development in the years to come.



EDITORS:

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Miks Muizarajs is from Riga, Latvia. He received a Bachelor of Arts in international economic affairs from the University of Latvia. During his undergraduate academic experience, he spent year at the University of Strasbourg in France and has worked extensively in television and radio. He worked in Ethiopia for 7 months, where he helped manage the creation of the first student radio station in East Africa. As Latvia is its way to joining the OECD, in the future, Miics hopes to work in the development field in his country of Latvia.



Lori Nye is from Louisville, Kentucky. She obtained a Bachelor of Arts in Anthropology with a specialization in archeology from the University of Kentucky. For three years, she worked for the Kentucky state government focusing on employment opportunities for refugees and lower income single parent households. After graduating from the IDS program, Lorinye hopes to obtain a Ph.D in applied anthropology.

Cristine Orilloso-Thurber is originally from the Philippines. When she was two, she moved to South Africa with her family. Most of Cristine's childhood was spent in Zimbabwe, Kenya, and Cyprus. When she was thirteen, she moved to Maryland. In 2006, she obtained a Bachelors of Science in biology and in 2008 she completed a Master's in social work from Loma Linda University. From 2008-2010, Cristine worked as a dependency investigations child welfare worker at Alameda county in Oakland California. Her childhood experiences and work as a social worker made her become interested in International Development. She is passionate about multicultural work and female advocacy and is hopeful to use her education to work in these fields in the future.



Andrew Delollo is from Albany, New York. He received a Bachelor of Arts in International Studies from Ohio University. Andrew specializes in East Africa and has spent several summers in the region doing various work with non-profit organizations. He is interested in African community health and hopes to work for an IGO or NGO focused in health and development.

Rudaba Zehra Nasir is originally from Pakistan. As an undergraduate, she studied economics with a focus on development. In the past she has led a development-based student organization and has spent time in India participating in meaningful discussions with students on issues of development within the country. Rudaba has worked on two development projects funded by USAID in the areas of earthquake rehabilitation, livelihood strategies and small enterprises in Pakistan. In addition, she has worked in the field of communications and development. In the future, she hopes to return working in the fields of international development and communication before completing a Ph.D.





Pronoy Rai is from south-central India. He obtained a Masters in development studies from the Indian Institute of Technology Gowahati. There, he completed a thesis on water access among the urban poor. He would like to continue to concentrate his research on India. In the future, he would like to obtain a Ph.D.

Zachary Lawless is from Carroll ,Ohio. Zachary has always had an interest in the world, and graduated from Kentucky Christian University with a Bachelors of Arts in Intercultural Studies with an focus on Biblical Studies. In the past, he has had the opportunity to work in Kenya and Thailand. In the future Zachary would like to become a professor and work to eradicate poverty.



Adjima Marie-Emmanuelle Assay is a Fulbright scholar from Cote'd Ivoire. She earned her undergraduate degree in logistics and transportation systems. Her first experience working in the development field was with the United Nations for Project Services. There, she worked as a logistics officer in the western region of Cote'd Ivoire. She has also worked for NIGSER(a consortium of GOPA). She is dedicated to improving the welfare of her country and would like to work to help improve the living standards of the citizens. Her future goals include working to promote self-sufficiency and micro-projects in Cote'd Ivoire.

Joshua Vetter is from Columbus, Ohio. He completed his undergraduate degree at Miami University in English Literature. Joshua served as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Zambia from 2008-2010. He worked with the Zambian Forestry Department. His primary projects were focused on agroforestry, agriculture, and business development. After completing the IDS program, he hopes to work in the development field as a project manager for a non-profit organization in East Africa.



Elen Meliksetyan studied at Yerevan State Linguistic University in Armenia and later at the Central European University in Budapest. Afterwards, she was involved in a project by Helsinki Citizens' Assembly in Armenia, aimed at conducting transparent elections, advancing women's rights, and increasing involvement of women in political processes. After graduation from IDS Elen hopes to return to her previous work. In the future, she hopes to look at the issues from new angles by using new techniques for designing projects.

Zharkyn Eshenalieva is from Kyrgyzstan. For four years, she worked on the U.S Manas Air-base in Kyrgyzstan as a project manager where she was in charge of the provision of various services. Later, she joined the Project for Joint Forest Management in the Kyrgyz Republic implemented by SICA. The aim of the project was to introduce forest management at a community -based level as well as implement poverty reduction strategies in the rural areas. Her interests include participatory and sustainable development.



STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

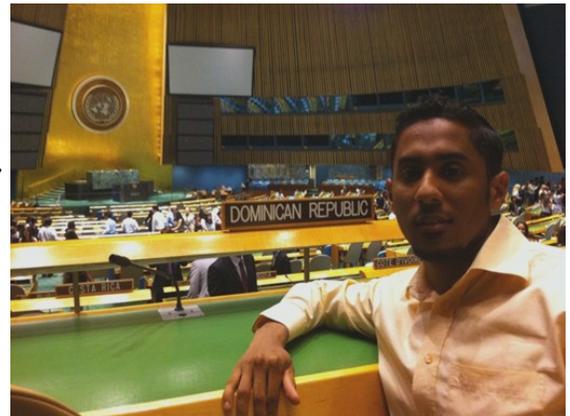
IDS Student Research and Internship Experience: Summer 2011

Whether working with international NGOs or conducting their own research, IDS students gain the practical experience necessary to become future leaders in the field of international development. Moriah Shiddat interviewed fellow IDS students Hanh Nguyen and Luis Duran to talk in detail about their internship and research experiences during the Summer of 2011.

Luis Duran, originally from the Dominican Republic, is a second year student of the IDS Program. During the Summer of 2011, he got the opportunity to work at the United Nations and the Friends of Service Committee in New York. In the interview, Luis, talks openly about the internship experience and the projects he worked on during the course of the summer.

Luis, tell me about your internship experiences ?

"This summer I was interning in two organizations based in New York City: the United Nations, and the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC). My experiences in both organizations were really great. The first one gave me a quick glance on how the UN system works and the daily work of this international organization in its headquarters. In the AFSC, I was working in the department of finance and management. Founded in 1917, the AFSC is a Quaker organization that includes people of various faiths who are committed to social justice, peace and humanitarian service."



What projects were you involved in?

"In the United Nations, I was working in UN-Habitat. There I was attending inter-agency and inter-governmental meetings relevant to UN Habitat, then preparing quality report of the meetings. I was also developing and implementing a social networking campaign to promote the image of UN-Habitat. In the AFSC, I was organizing and planning the September 11th ten year anniversary event for the organization. There I was also organizing events, writing grants, community outreach, fundraising and social networking campaign. "

How did you benefit from your internship experience?

"The experience helped me to understand the challenges and opportunities of working in a large bureaucratic organization such as the UN. It also provided me with a better understanding of the scope of an organization that works for the defense of human rights, gender equality and youths such as the AFSC."

How has your internship experience shape your perspective on the field of International Development?

"It gave to me an idea of the kind of work I would like to be involved in after graduation. I want to get some experience in international development and management. Then I would like to go back to my country and try to make a change while being part of the political life of the Dominican Republic."

Hanh Nguyen is a second year student of the IDS program who conducted thesis field research in her country of Vietnam”. Her thesis is centered upon analyzing the livelihood changes of poor ethnic communities involved in a national scheme, Payments for Forest Environmental Services (PFES).



Hanh, tell me about the work you did in Vietnam?

“I went to the Central Highland province in Vietnam to do field work for my thesis about livelihood changes of poor ethnic communities who have been involved in a national scheme called Payments for Forest Environmental Services (PFES). Groups of local households are contracted to protect forests in a watershed so that the beneficiary enterprises downstream can have good-quality water resources for their business. These people are poor and the PFES scheme has become an important income, but having this income does not guarantee that it will be effectively used to create further livelihoods. Therefore, it was an intrigue for me to explore how these households used their PFES income to support their livelihoods, especially the strategies that could potentially help them generate more income. I carried out both a household survey and a semi-structured interview with the participants of the scheme with the purpose of examining the preliminary effects of the scheme on improving their incomes and, to a

larger extent, their livelihoods.”

What Challenges did you encounter in this research?

“It was quite challenging for me firstly because of the language barrier. The local people speak their own language and even though they speak Vietnamese as an official language, most of them did not speak it fluently. Initially I had a couple of voluntary assistants to help with the translation but I intended not to involve them in the second round of interviews to encourage my interviewees to speak more openly and in more detail about the research topic and their life situations. What I did was to observe and learn the way they speak Vietnamese so that I could accommodate them while I was interviewing them. Another difficulty was that information at the local level is usually not widely available due to lack of resources for adequate information management. I had to triangulate the information using different sources of information and this step required good organization of data, critical thinking and patience. Also, I would have preferred to carry out a longitudinal ethnographic study, but within a limited amount of time, energy and finance for my master’s thesis, I chose mixed research methods that could fit with both the purposes of and resources for the research. Last but not least, not many people would imagine staying in a place without proper electricity and sanitary conditions, but that is what development fieldwork is about! “

How do you hope your work will benefit the stakeholders involved?

“Starting in early 2009 as a pilot project in the area where I did my research, it has now been selected as a law making Payments for Forest Environmental Services mandatory for all the provinces with forest across the country. Even though this is a case study, I hope that the research work I have been doing will contribute to a better understanding of the impacts of the forest management policy on livelihoods of the poor so that the policy can adjust accordingly and reflect this understanding in its next revisions. The impacts of this scheme will be extended to a broader population, the majority of whom are living under the poverty line. Making their voices heard is one of the ways to inform policy-makers of the impacts of the scheme on the livelihoods of the poor and in its turn, change in policies will help poor people get their share and improve their livelihoods.”

How has your work changed your perspective on the field of international development?

“The work I have done is a continuation in pursuing my interest in the relationship between environmental protection and poverty reduction since I started working as a development practitioner in Vietnam. A valuable thing from my field work is that environmental sustainability in theory needs to be put in a specific context to conceptualize and to find solutions. In the case of my research, there are obviously trade-offs between economic development and environmental protection. Some may argue that forest protection should be set as the first priority, but natural resource-dependent people will continue to use natural resources unsustainably if they are still poor. I think how to use resources from those trade-offs to secure livelihoods of the poor is significant at least for the time being when we are still searching for better models of economic development which uphold environmental sustainability.”

AFFILIATED FACULTY

The interdisciplinary nature of the IDS program allows students to pursue a curriculum that draws on multiple disciplinary perspectives. To show appreciation to the committed faculty involved with the IDS program, we highlight an affiliated faculty member. In October IDS student Moriah Shiddat interviewed Dr. Myra Waterbury to discuss her research, her class on Nationalism and Ethnic Conflict, as well as her experience working with IDS students.



Dr. Waterbury, please tell me about yourself and how you came to Ohio University?

“I’m originally from Connecticut and went to graduate school at the New School for Social Research in New York City, where I received my PhD in Political Science. Before starting my graduate work, I lived in Hungary for over a year, an experience that shaped my dissertation research and interest in East European politics. I came to work at OU straight out of graduate school and have been enjoying the slower-paced lifestyle of Athens. I like to travel, practice karate, and sing in choirs.”

Previously your work has looked at the way in which actors in states with significant diaspora populations seek to co-opt and control transnational networks of ethnic affiliation to further their own political goals. How do you see this as an issue of development?

“The relationship between states and their diasporas around the world is increasingly recognized as a key factor for development. Not only do many diasporas contribute significantly to the GDP of their homeland countries, but states look to their diasporas to extend the homeland’s cultural influence, geopolitical goals, and even domestic political concerns beyond their borders. It is important to recognize that states have their own agendas in engaging diaspora populations, and that the desire to access and control diaspora resources is often tied to domestic political competition within the homeland state. More and more researchers are finding that states and their leaders are not simply responding to the processes of globalization, transnationalism, and the bonds of cultural affiliation, but are in fact key players in constructing and even manipulating transnational networks. This has important implications for understanding the role that diasporas play in political and economic development, both in their countries of origin and their countries of residence.”

In the field of international development, we often do not talk about development within the context of Eastern Europe. In your opinion, what are some of the issues that are impacting regional development in Former Soviet States and what measures should be taken into consideration in addressing such issues?

“There are many issues of development to be found in the region of Eastern Europe. Even though many of these countries are now part of the European Union, and hence the “developed” world, we should remember that only 20 years ago these states were undergoing profound economic, political, and social changes, the consequences of which are still being felt. The role of the European Union and other European institutions in rapidly tying the post-communist states to democratic norms and market economies is a fascinating case study of both the limits and the possibilities of regional integration for development. Yet, even though the general economic and political development of East European states has been mostly successful, the region still faces a number of challenges. Many states in the region still struggle with high degrees of corruption, a lack of political transparency, apathy and cynicism among the citizenry, an underdeveloped civil society, a rise of radical political extremism, and some states are struggling to stabilize their economies. In fact, only 2 of the post-communist states in the European Union have joined the Euro zone so far, and some have recently negotiated for IMF bailouts. If we look at the Balkan region or to the post-Soviet states farther east, in particularly those that are not yet part of the EU, we can see even more problems. For example, the Balkan states are still dealing with the aftermath of the wars in former Yugoslavia, such as the creation of new and fragile states (e.g. Kosovo), statelessness among refugee populations, ongoing ethnic tensions, and an increase in organized crime and human trafficking. Many post-Soviet states still have semi-authoritarian regimes rife with economic inequality, political oppression, corruption, and disenfranchised ethnic minorities. It seems likely that EU membership will extend no further than the Balkan states, making it unclear how additional economic and political progress will emerge in Central Asia, the Caucasus region, and even in the Ukraine and Belarus.”

This fall you are teaching the course Nationalism and Ethnic Conflict. Would you tell our readers more about the course as well as what you hope your students get out of it?

“Nationalism and Ethnic Conflict is my favorite class to teach and the one which seems to attract the most IDS students. I don’t focus on my own research in the class, but I try to give students a broad understanding of the main approaches to understanding nationalism and ethnic conflict. In addition to thematic sessions on nationalism and democracy, theories of ethnic war, and religion and conflict, we look in depth at some of the major cases of inter-ethnic conflict and tension of the past 20 years (e.g. Yugoslavia, Rwanda, Sudan, Sri Lanka, India). The course ends with a discussion of institutional and international responses to ethnic conflict: how to rebuild societies when the violence ends. I always try to leave one day open for the class to decide as a whole what additional topic or case to cover. In the past, we have used this day to talk about the politics of indigenous identities in Latin America, the rise of extreme right-wing nationalism in Europe, and secessionist conflicts and resource wars. Students also have the opportunity to do a research paper on a case of their own choosing, which I always encourage graduate students to connect as much as possible to their thesis or project work.”

As a professor, what has been your impression of IDS students who have taken your classes in the past?

“I love having IDS students in my classes because their unique experiences and backgrounds add such richness to our discussions. I also enjoy working with them on their papers, which are usually based on ongoing research projects. I always learn a lot from them.”

Dr. Waterbury, are you currently working on any new projects or research?

*“Always! Right now I am working on a few new projects after the publication of my book, *Between State and Nation: Diaspora Politics and Kin-state Nationalism in Hungary* in December 2010. The first looks at how the policies of states in Eastern Europe toward their diaspora helps or hurts the political integration of diaspora members in the states in which they reside. The second is a comparative investigation of the use of citizenship policies as a way to create and maintain ties with ethnic diasporas in Eastern Europe. The third looks at how minority political parties in new European Union member states navigate the opportunity to run and field candidates in European Parliamentary elections.”*

Interested in taking a course with Dr. Waterbury? You might be interested in taking *Politics of Eastern Europe* in Winter of 2012



RESOURCE CORNER

Looking for research and job opportunities in international development?
Check out these websites!

Devex

devex.com is a social networking site where you are able to stay in-the-loop with the latest development news from the company’s global team of reporters. One is able to create a profile and track tender notices, project listings, contract awards, and find early intelligence on upcoming donor activities. Whether you are looking for a job, or want to keep up on the latest developments of world-wide projects, devex is a great source to network with others in the field of international Development. Joining is free!

Learning for sustainability

Learning for sustainability is a website that provides a practical resource for those who work with communities (in the wider sense of the term) to help them identify and adopt more sustainable practices. This page provides some key links for using the Internet to track down job vacancies and volunteering programs in the fields of environment and development. The website provides a wide variety of employment-related information and resources you'll need to start, change or further your career. This is a great resource for those who are interested in sustainability.

4icj

This is an international job listings meta-site. It contains links to regional and country-specific job boards and provides resources on salaries and ways to improve your curriculum vitae.

Trust

For those who are interested in humanitarian relief services, this site is a good resource for you! It is a humanitarian news network based around a popular website that aims to keep relief professionals and the wider public up-to-date on humanitarian crises around the globe. You can find a useful jobs database that lists immediate positions in relief work.

IDS

This is an online weekly newsletter provided by the International Development Studies Institute that covers IDS events, members' travels, new publications, internal and external job vacancies and personal advertisements. Provides a great source for research positions.

Go Abroad

This site provides an extensive job database that is run in association with GoAbroad.com.

Riley guide

This site is designed as a meta-site for job searching, it pulls together some of the best web resources for finding a job. Great resource to check out!

Idealist

This website offers a wide variety of job listings. Users are able to use the "Advanced Search" link to effectively browse through listings. One is able to create a personal account where new listings that meet your criteria can be sent to your inbox. This has become a preferred website where NGOs like to place job listings.

**Follow IDS on these
Social Networks****Twitter**

Tweeting from @IntlDevStudies you will find information by, about, and for the IDS community. If you have a message to share, let us know and we'll send a tweet to our followers! A great source for all the latest about IDS.

Linked

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!

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.

ALUMNI RECOGNITION

Debra Budiani is an alumni of Ohio University, graduating in 1996 with a M.A. in International Affairs and an M.S. in International Community Health. Currently she is the director of the Coalition for Organ Failure Solutions (COFS) in Washington D.C. Recently, Debra conducted an interview where she discussed the plight of illicit organ trade in Asia and the Middle East, her organization's efforts to address the organ trade as well as her experience in the IDS program.



Debra, could you please tell me about your organization's mission?

"I direct a NGO that I founded in 2005 (registered in early 2006) called the Coalition for Organ-Failure Solutions (COFS). COFS is a non-profit international health and human rights organization with a mission to end organ trafficking and enhance altruistic and deceased organ donation within standardized, transparent, and accountable channels based on social justice and equity. COFS was established after I began to meet victims of organ trafficking in 1999. I completed my Ph.D. in 2004 and was eager to advocate an end to global organ trafficking."

Why has the illicit organ trade become such a pervasive problem in Africa and the Middle East?

"The demand for replacement organs is increasing world-wide as doctors suggest transplantation as the preferred therapy for organ failure, particularly for kidney and liver failure. Desperate patients who confront long-waiting lists and fear death may become transplant tourists and travel to a destination where they are able to arrange the purchase of an organ and the transplant procedure. Hot spot host countries for organ trafficking are primarily located in countries in the Middle East and Asia where conditions of a vulnerable underclass, advanced transplant technologies and inadequate oversight facilitate the organ trade."

Are there any current measures that governments or the international community are pursuing to address the problem?

"The World Health Organization (WHO) has conducted expert consultations in recent years to develop Guiding Principles on Human Transplantation which serve to assist countries to establish a legal framework for transplants. Several countries have begun to prosecute criminal activities of organ trafficking. We at COFS are working to produce more reports of our evidence-based findings that emerge from our outreach programs to victims and to employ these reports to advance accountability and end impunity of the multiple levels of perpetrators involved in organ trafficking."

Do you think the illicit organ trade will continue to be a problem in other regions of the world?

"We have been able to observe in recent decades that when oversight tightens in one country, the black market in human organs shifts elsewhere. It is likely that organ trafficking will in fact continue to spread to regions where there is less scrutiny."

As an IDS alum, what can tell me about your experience in the program?

"The IDS program was an extraordinarily rich and enjoyable experience because of the faculty and students' friendly and collaborative approach to learning about development. A team approach was encouraged rather than suggestions that isolation in study should bear better fruits. I was thrilled to learn about the projects that faculty and students conducted and to discover the field of Medical Anthropology in the discourse...I invested 14 years of university education to complete my Ph.D. and I can say that the most pleasurable of these were the two years that I spent in Athens-one in the IDS program and one in the M.S. program on International Community Health. I not only made life-long friendships but I also met my husband in Athens. We look forward to bringing our toddler sons there one day to share the memories!"

What advice would you offer to a graduate student who has recently graduated and looking to pursue a career in the field of International Development?

"The world of opportunities is bigger than one might imagine. Select the areas and issues you that most engage your passion and run to these. Become the expert. Learn from others' experience. Create the solutions."

To Learn More

Check out the COFS website:

www.cofs.org

For additional information on illicit organ trade watch the film

Investigative Reports -Organ Trade: Life and Death for Sale (2006)

IDS Students Organize Trip to Career Fair

On October 21st, students of the IDS program organized a trip to the Society for International Development Career Fair in Washington D.C. The SID-Washington Career Fair is an opportunity for entry- and mid-level professionals to advance their careers, make connections with influential individuals and institutions, and learn more about the current state of international development. Held at Georgetown University, the students got the opportunity to learn about various organizations, network with other students interested in international development, and learn about job prospects in the field of development.

*"One of the things that I learned is that it's really competitive. I knew that, but once I arrived there I got great advice to focus on one specific topic in my studies but at the same time try to take some classes in other areas to broaden my perspective. Also, it was a great opportunity to see how these organizations actually work." --Miks,
First-year IDS Student*



IDS NETWORKING TRIP TO WASHINGTON D.C.

November 30-December 2, 2011

- Meetings with World Bank, CARE, USAID, Development Alternatives & other organizations
 - Alumni reception (time & date TBA)

Check Facebook, Twitter, & LinkedIn for updates on our itinerary!