



International Development Studies Newsletter

WELCOMING OUR INCOMING CLASS

Message from the Director, Jieli Li

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First of all, I would like to extend my warm welcome to a new cohort of IDS students – 19 highly motivated and dedicated young men and women who represent diverse nationalities and academic and professional backgrounds. As always, I believe that the new group (as in the past) will bring to IDS different life stories as well as new perspectives to enrich our intellectual discourse on development issues and challenges. Such diversity of student body, along with the interdisciplinary nature of curriculum, is a constant source of strength from which IDS has drawn to keep our program dynamic both in and out of classroom.

I would also like to welcome-back our continuing IDS students who have returned to campus after a long summer break. Most of you spent your summer doing internships, participating in study-abroad programs, or engaging in data collection for your capstone projects. I am so happy to learn from your summer reports as well as email contacts that all your summer experiences turned out to be rewarding and fruitful, and more importantly, you achieved what you had planned for and now you are ready to move on. To my great satisfaction, using the summer to get exposed to and involved in the development fields in the real world has become part and parcel of IDS life for our students who benefit considerably from it. All in all, with the aid of our affiliated faculty group, IDS will continue to do whatever we can to assist our students in achieving their goals.

Again, my warm welcome to all of you, new and old, and I look forward to another productive and fruitful year for IDS.

EMERGING IDEAS

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**Chalisa Magpanthong**

Chalisa completed her PhD in Mass Communication at Ohio University in 2007, but returned the following year to begin work toward a degree in International Development Studies in order to broaden her international expertise. She also holds degrees from Chulalongkorn University near her home in Thailand and the University of North Texas. She has also been an Assistant Professor at Prince of Songkla University in Thailand and Ashland University in Ohio. Before joining Ohio University, she led a local group in establishing a community radio station in Pattani in Thailand. Chalisa hopes to write a book about community radio in Thailand. After finishing her work in International Studies, she intends to continue her career in academe.



Daniel Akwasi Kanyam I was born in Ghana on the 31st of May 1981. I majored in Economics and minored in political science for my first degrees or undergraduate study at the University of Ghana, Legon. My core objective or ambition of pursuing international development is to help in the globalization process aimed at advancing the

course of Africa and a commitment to fighting social justice. With my few months of international experience and exposure I am now more committed to fighting justice than I have been all along, and keen to do more along this route in the future.



Nickie (Tamny) Séne My name is Nickie (Tamny) Séne, I just got married on August 9th to Bamba Séne who I met in 2005 while studying abroad at Univercité Gaston Berger in St. Louis, Senegal. Also in 2005, I worked as an intern for the Bureau of African Affairs and United States Department of State

in the consular section of the US Embassy in Cotonou, Benin. I graduated from Ursinus College in 2006 with a bachelors degree in French and International Relations and a minor in African American and Africana Studies. I then served as a TEFL or education volunteer with the Peace Corps in a rural village in the most northwest corner of Benin from 2006 until 2008. My current interests include francophone, sub-Saharan, west Africa, Wolof, development and gender studies.

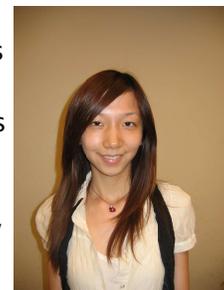


Christine Leistner I am an energetic person who likes to devote my time to positive energy within myself, the community, with the hope of it cascading further into the world. Previously, I've studied Psychology (B.A.) and Plant Biology (B.A.). While living in Athens, I worked at a few local restaurants learning how to cook a variety of cuisines from around the world. I have been teaching a cooking class at a local non-profit called Goodworks directed toward people with diabetes. My interests are primarily in Public Health and Development. I am particular interested in vector - control methods to implement in areas where malaria and dengue fever are prevalent. I am so happy to be a part of this program because of its interdisciplinary nature. I believe that public health requires multidisciplinary routes of thought and action to be affective.

Faishol Adib Faishol Adib is a former program coordinator of advocacy at Migrant CARE, Jakarta. He is obtaining his master degree under the Ford Foundation's International Fellowship Program . His interests include international relation, human rights, and international political economy. He has finished a research on WTO policy related with migration issues.



Xiu Mao My name is Xiu Mao, I'm from China and my major was Business Administration and I am a International Development student now. I was a member of the Outreach, an organization started by my peer college students while in China. The responsibility of this organization is to contact and work with the local business community and business owners to build mutual benefiting relationships. I was a member of host services committee in my university for a year. This is the department of etiquette whose responsibilities mainly include receiving guest lecturers for special talks to our university for various activities. Moreover, I also participated in the promotion of animal protection and environmental protection and energy conservation. Furthermore, I served as the representative image of the university at sports games. I was the head of the cheer leader leading my college teams in different competitive games. I am interested in Social Sciences.





Grace Annor I am Grace Annor and come from Ghana. My ambition has been to advocate for the vulnerable, especially the children who are deprived of education. I have been assisting children of the rural folks to get access to education and hope to continue after my program.



Jenny McArdle I hail from Iowa and just completed my undergraduate studies at Coe College in Cedar Rapids, IA, where I created an interdisciplinary major called Global Development Studies. So far, I've only traveled internationally to Korea and Japan, but I can't wait to gain some more international travel experience. At OU, I want

to focus on women in development, especially in Africa.



Leticia Agyemang I am Leticia Agyemang, a native of Ghana in the West African Sub-region. My interests are doing community work especially in the areas of poverty reduction, embarking on child care programs to give meaning to hopeless children and doing anything that helps improve the living conditions of people. My main goal is to set up an orphanage that will care for homeless children some day in the future. This passion to be there for others is the main purpose of my being in the International Development Program, to acquire practical experience for my future profession.



Mahmood Khoshnaw Mahmood Khoshnaw, a Fulbrighter from Iraq, in the Kurdistan Region. I have finished both my BA and Masters in Iraq in the field of English Literature. Since 2003 to 2008 I have worked with international organizations involved in the rebuilding of the country and participated in implementing aid and development programs. These programs included refugee resettlement , rehabilitation of houses of vulnerable communities and relief projects. I have also been lecturing at Salahaddin University, college of education for the last two years. I have strong desire to participate in the rebuilding of my country and region through my previous experience and what I will learn at Ohio University's Center of International Studies.

Ifoda Abdurazakova I have several years of working experience in both government and international organizations. My interest in International Development started when I worked on elaborating campaigns on the UN Millennium Development Goals in Uzbekistan. This gave me a chance to communicate with wide diversity of people and inspire me to get academic knowledge in development. I have many students in Uzbekistan and I also intend to go further and be practitioner and teacher on International Development field.



Jean Pierre My name is Josue Pierre; I am Fulbrighter from Haiti. I have been teaching philosophy and history of Political Thought in France and Haiti for the last five years. While I am at OU I would like to focus on theory of development and hope to complete a dual degree with Political Science. I hope to publish books about development and political theory.



Heyam Aboalasar My name is Heyam Abo Alasar . I am from Yemen . I graduated from Sana'a University in Yemen from the Faculty of Art . I worked for several years in UNICEF, my work experience made me think of poverty in a different way . I recognized the differing roles people play to address development issues, and I started developing a sense of public policy, economy, and social welfare. I often felt furious seeing how women and children bore the greatest burden of poverty. I have done my best to advocate for change in policy, and direction. I obtained a diploma in social research & population studies from the Sana'a University in 2004 and I continued studying specific patterns that influence our policy , I worked as a Gender Advisor with UNFPA for the Women National committee , the government machinery for women issues . I hope my experience in the International Development Studies master program in OU will help me to understand how values shape policies and how to design social policies and how to use social science techniques to evaluate the effectiveness, fairness, and impact of public policy.





Sevara Sharapova In Tashkent, Uzbekistan I worked for the Regional Policy Foundation and taught at the Tashkent State Institute of Oriental Studies. I am the author of three books on the Uzbek foreign policy and regional cooperation and one textbook. In 2002 I was Visiting Fellow at Cambridge University (the UK) and in 2003-2004 Visiting Fellow at the University of Iowa. In December 2004 I was co-organizer of an International Symposium "Sir Halford Mackinder's Heartland: A Help or Hindrance?" held in Tashkent. I am a member of the Central Eurasia Leadership Academy (CELA) aimed at creating networks of forward-thinking leaders. With regard to the concentration, social science, environment, and gender are most interesting to me.



Yang Lai My name is Lai Yang. In Chinese it means the sun is rising. I got a bachelor sdegree of English literature in China. I have always delighted in reading any topic from the Oriental and Western Humanities and Social Sciences, especially of Chinese history, sociology and anthropology. Sociology has always interested me for I regard practice as important as theory. One issue I have been concerned with for a long time is the gender problem in China. Also, for years I have planned to write my family history, with the aspiration of reflecting people's diverse destinies and the development of my hometown before and after the year 1949: the foundation of the new republic brought a storm to the people from all different social classes, and the powerful influence to the Chinese people's destinies is lasting until this day.



Lilia Krasteva I'm from Bulgaria. I have a MA in Italian linguistic and literature. For seven years I have been working in economic development and public administration. I'm coming from both positive and negative experiences of a developing Eastern European country, which in 20 years lived the transition from socialist political system and planned economy to open market and parliamentary democracy. I will concentrate my studies in Social sciences, focused on economics and public policy. I'm interested in poverty, migration, conflict resolution. Geographical orientation of my studies will be Africa. During my studies here I will search for some answers about why the difference between poor and rich world. I hope to be able to find practical answer.

Siphokazi (Kazi) Magadla My name is Siphokazi (Kazi) Magadla, I am 21 years old (I suspect the youngest of the group). I am a Fulbrighter from South Africa. I'm just a happy go-lucky adventure seeking Sagittarius. I have a BA in Politics and International Studies with a second major in Journalism and Media Studies (focus on Photojournalism). Both my BA and Politics Honors Degrees are from Rhodes University, in South Africa. This year I had the opportunity to intern at the Institute for Security Studies, one of Africa's best research institutes. With my time there I was blessed to arrive just as my supervisor was launching a project on Women and Peace-Building in Africa, research project discerning women's contributions to peace in Rwanda, Democratic Republic of Congo and Sudan. I went on the trips to Rwanda and Sudan. I hope that after my masters I will be able to make a valuable contribution to my continent.



Thomas Langehaug I arrived at Ohio University having worked with the Peace Corps for five years in both the Atlanta and Seattle Regional offices both as a recruiter and recruitment coordinator. I served as a Peace Corps volunteer in Panama from 2000-2003. Prior to my Peace Corps service, I worked in the corporate world in financial and retail management. I also taught English as a foreign language for six months in Guatemala and Barcelona, Spain. My community service experience includes work as an international volunteer coordinator for the NGO Globe Aware in Peru, a Pediatric Unit bilingual volunteer for Grady Health System in Atlanta, and a Relocation Volunteer for the Atlanta International Rescue Committee. I was also a volunteer HIV/AIDS instructor for the Seattle Red Cross. A native of DeKalb, Illinois, I received bachelor's degrees in economics and political science at Northern Illinois University in 1989.

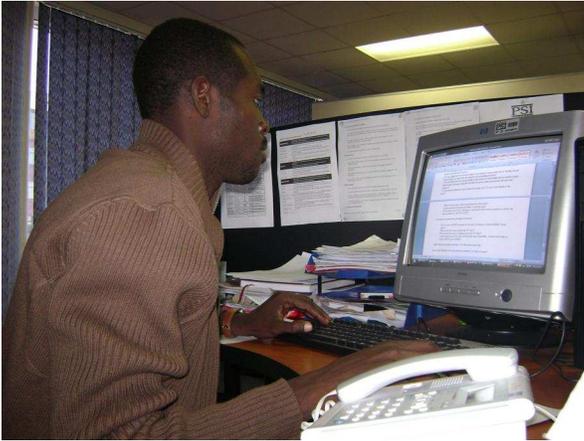


*We would like to extend a warm
welcome to the entire first year
IDS cohort!!!*

Freddy Studies in Botswana

By: Frednel Isma

During the summer break 2008 I had the opportunity to go abroad for a 4 week study with Health Policy Studies at the University of Botswana, Gaborone Botswana. The HIV/AIDS study abroad in Botswana is a unique experience a student may have. The experiential learning that shapes the program makes me ready to recommend it to everyone looking for a study abroad program. The accommodations were wonderful with a room in the Residence Hall in University of Botswana comparable to the best residence halls in the US.



The most important part of the program was the internship/volunteer works I had to do. I was working with Population Services International (PSI) to help its research section in conducting research about HIV/AIDS in Botswana. We had to elaborate a questionnaire and a study guide for interviews and focus groups, as well as record, transcript and analyze the data. With the data collected, PSI will review its strategy of intervention on the issue of HIV/AIDS in Botswana. Although I could not attend all the focus group because of the use of Setswana, I enjoyed the time spent with PSI and I wish I could go back to Botswana to help and to "BINA" (dance).

Development Work in Vietnam

By: Linh Dang

For many years, Vietnamese-American Non-Governmental Organizations (VA-NGOs) located throughout the United States have struggled to find a way to assist the people of Vietnam which, in view of ethnic and cultural links, is their homeland. VA-NGOs are heavily constrained by both the diaspora and their homeland because of the past 30 years of war and enmity. As a result, VA NGOs are facing a great challenge - strive to overcome the psychological and political obstacles still simmering between the expatriates and the government in Vietnam. A war caused by different ideals and supported by opposing international powers has brought victory to one side, but once peace is restored, reconciliation between the two sides must be achieved by mutual recognition and equal treatment, not only with respect to those who have taken refuge abroad but also to those who remain in the country.



The aim of my field research is to have a better understanding of what the achievements have been since their organization started to work in Vietnam; what benefits and barriers they experience while working with governmental agencies at central and local levels; how they can overcome difficulties; what their recommendations are to make cooperation with those agencies more effective and productive; if the organizations foresee difficulties in securing the funding for activities in Vietnam in the next five to ten years; and how to maintain the source of funding for project implementation.

I departed from Athens, Ohio to California on August 20th. For the first week of my field research, I stayed and traveled back and forth between San Jose and Oakland, conducting research on the VA-NGOs that are located in the city. Then I moved down to Orange County and San Diego on the second week and spent a week there to conduct research on the VA-NGO network. On September 3rd, I completed the field research and returned to Athens. This was an extremely useful and informative field trip for me to collect primary data for my research.

Hisako Interns in Thailand**By: Hisako Inomata**

I was working for a local NGO, the Mirror Foundation, in northern Thailand. This NGO employs several projects for improving hill tribes' life because hill tribes have many problems due to the difficulty in obtainment of Thai nationality. For two months, I was living in a small village with NGO staff and other volunteers from all around the world. My main task was to teach Japanese language and culture for children at school and to help projects such as anti-human trafficking, health or anti-drug campaign in villages.

Study Abroad In Honduras**By: Mitch Boutin**

In June Mitchell Boutin traveled to Honduras with the OU Department of Higher Education's Service Learning and Education study abroad trip. During his two weeks in Honduras he visited various public and private educational institutions, exploring how this developing country is adjusting in its push for universal education. After a few days in the capital Tegucigalpa, the group traveled to Montana de Luz, an orphanage working to give HIV positive children and teens a better future. The last few days of the trip were spent exploring the quickly developing northern region of Honduras, where the textiles and apparels export industry has begun to reshape the society.



Throughout the trip, the issue of how to build service-learning as a component of education was explored. The group also held many discussions exploring the social-consciousness raising effects of service-learning projects like the one they participated in at Montana de Luz. The experience, while short, was a great addition to Mitch's concentration in education in development.

Freddy, Mitch and HEND Mentor Future Leaders of the World

For six weeks IDS students Mitchell Boutin, HEND Irhiam and Frednel Isma interned with the Global Young Leaders Conference, a division of Envision, EMI. Working in both Washington D.C. and New York City, Freddy, HEND and Mitch worked as faculty advisors to groups of 20-30 high school students from all over the world. Serving as mentors, teachers, and chaperones, with their students they explored issues of international diplomacy, development and economics. During the conference they visited various sites in D.C. and N.Y.C., including the Smithsonian, the State Department, various foreign embassies, Ellis Island and the United Nations.

The experience with GYLC gave them a chance to connect with and share their knowledge and experiences with youth from around the world. Working in D.C. and N.Y.C. along with the interactions with a diverse student body and staff was something they gained deeply from.



Ramzi's Summer Internship in Washington DC

By: Ramzi Asali

Since I started my program of international development, I perceived the vital importance of doing an internship in order to complement my theoretical knowledge about development with practical experience and skills. My goal was to apply for internship opportunities at international organizations working primarily for the benefit of the Palestinians so that I could gain more knowledge about the development needs of my home country. During the summer, I carried out my internship at the United Palestinian Appeal

(UPA). UPA is one of the main NGOs that provide humanitarian and development assistance to the Palestinian people. UPA is rated 4.0 out of 4.0 by the Charity Navigator. It has two main focus areas: scholarships to needy Palestinian students, and sponsorship program of orphans and needy Palestinian children. In addition, UPA is a grant-making organization that provides annual grants to development projects. UPA is trying to reconcile between the need for relief programs to help the Palestinians in light of the misery created by the conflict in the region, and the need for development programs that create indigenous capacity so that the future Palestinian state can function self-sufficiently.

My duties included: researching, conducting needs assessments, contacting donors and potential sponsors, evaluating grant proposals, designing an evaluation form for UPA's sponsored projects, co-arranging a fund-raising event, charging credit cards of contributors, and translation.

Overall, my internship experience was very fruitful. I had the opportunity to work and network with experienced and qualified professionals in the field of international development. In addition, it exposed me to the dynamics and daily operations of the practical development world. Last but not least, I had enough time to discover the amazing attractions of Washington DC, the nation's capital.



My Internship with the United Nations

By: Aymi Hama

The UN Headquarters is an interesting place to do an internship. If anyone wants to know how big organizations, such as the UN, work in the context of development, it would be an ideal place to be. While your assignment might not be as dynamic as you might expect it to be, you become familiar with the function of the organization through doing your assignments and communicating colleagues in your office. For me it was an exciting experience. I was lucky to be assigned to the desired department, which is the Department of Peacekeeping

Operations, and worked for projects such as preparing for a workshop, developing policies, joining office meetings and so forth.

Not only working environment, but also the accessibility to various opportunities is a great advantage of this internship program. You will have opportunities to meet other interns who come from all over the world, visiting permanent missions to the UN and observing various meeting held in the institution including the Security Council meeting. At the end of the internship, you will be satisfied with what you could have experienced as an intern at the UN. Personally, I think doing internship in fall would be most interesting since you could see the General Assembly.



Lynn Goes to Ecuador with Ohio University's Tropical Disease Institute

By: Lynn Walroth

As a student of International Development Studies, I knew that participating in the Tropical Disease Institute's research program in Ecuador would afford me valuable fieldwork experience for a career in development. I never could have anticipated however, how profoundly this experience would impact my life. From the amazing people I have met to the breathtaking mountain views, this experience has been one that I will always carry with me.

This program is unique in that it seeks to eliminate Chagas disease from many different angles including: disease education, prevention, testing and treatment. Due to the program's comprehensive nature, each day holds something new for its participants. Some days consist of hiking through gorgeous rural mountain communities in order to visit homes. At each home, we search for the disease-carrying insects and educate the people about Chagas. Though the people we visit have very few material possessions, they are among the most generous people I have ever met- always quick to offer me their seat in the shade or some fresh fruit or peanuts they grow on their land. They kindly open their homes and their hearts and share their lives and experiences. The people are eager to learn about Chagas and are so appreciative that we have made them aware of the deadly disease that poses a threat to them and their families.

Others days I spent in the medical clinic, which was held free of charge for the children in the communities we visited. Community schools were turned into a medical clinic for a day in order to test children for Chagas disease and to provide them with medical care, which many of them lacked. The clinic is another place where I had the opportunity to interact with the Ecuadorian people. From the little girl playing doctor to the little boy who is mesmerized by the stethoscope, the clinic buzzed with positive energy as children were anxious to cooperate and their parents were grateful to us for bringing valuable medical services to their community.

Each time we left a community to move onto the next, I had a bittersweet feeling in my heart; I felt sad to leave the people that have made me feel so welcome, but so lucky to have had the opportunity to glimpse into their world. Some days the hikes were long, the mountains were steep and the sun was hot; I finished everyday feeling physically exhausted, but with a great feeling about what I was doing. It is fulfilling to know that I helped, at least in some small way, to eliminate Chagas disease in Ecuador and possibly made life a little bit better for the amazing people I met.



A special thanks to all who attended our IDS welcome picnic!!!!

