

Emerging Ideas

The Newsletter for The International
Development Studies Program

END OF THE YEAR PARTY, MAY 21, 2004



Dr. Collins hosted an end of the year party at her house. The party consisted of a potluck and a grill-out. With most students leaving for the summer and second year students graduating and moving on with their future plans, the party provided a opportunity to relax, converse, and eat some great international cuisines. It is amazing how quickly time moves during graduate school and sometimes we forget to take time out and have a little fun.



SUMMER PLANS FOR 1ST YEAR STUDENTS

First year students are strongly encouraged to use internships to advance their training, knowledge, and experience in international development work. During the upcoming summer break, many first year students are interning throughout the world in locations such as Samoa, Tanzania, Washington D.C., Russia, Thailand, Ghana, and Guatemala. Others are using their time away from classes to conduct research for their master's thesis or grant proposals in countries such as Indonesia, Belize, Honduras, and Samoa. The remainder of first year students will take remain in Athens to take summer classes or enjoy a break from school with their family and friends.

Paige Miller, Appleton, Wisconsin

During the summer months, Paige will intern for the Ministry of Health in Samoa. She will be working at the country's Nutrition Center at its satellite center on the more rural island of Savai'i. Her duties while interning at the Nutrition Center will include creating rural nutrition based programs and developing vegetable gardens with women in neighboring villages. Additionally, Paige will conduct research for her master's thesis on the accessibility of health care services and its affects on women residing in rural Samoan villages.



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Bryan Morris, Atlanta, Georgia

Bryan will participate in the US-Indonesia Society's Summer Language Institute from June through August. He will stay in Yogyakarta, Indonesia studying Bahasa Indonesia at Gadjadara University.

Heather Arney, Kansas City, Missouri

Since Athens is such a great town, Heather is spending the summer learning Sudanese Arabic through the SCALI program. She was awarded the prestigious Foreign Language Scholarship for the summer months. It is an intense language program where she will spend four hours a day learning and mastering the Arabic language. She is looking forward to discovering Athens in the summer without the many students and frat boys.



Yumiko Harada, Japan

Yumiko will intern for the Peace Education Center at Mae La refugee camp in Thailand, a non-governmental organization established in May 2002. Its main focus is English education for Burmese refugees. Yumiko will do field research and voluntary work at the refugee camp from July 3rd to August 8th. After the completion of her internship, Yumiko will stop over in Japan to visit her parents en route to Athens.

Molly Steinbauer, Clyde, Ohio

Molly will intern with the Education and Development Center of Tanzania (EDC) in Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania. EDC is a domestic NGO which works to bring life skills and primary school education to orphans and other marginalized youth throughout Tanzania. The EDC also has a few soap opera radio programs which teach life skills and sex education to



Kosuke Tamura, Japan

Kosuke is traveling to Ghana for an internship this summer from mid-June till the end of August. The organization for which he will intern manages solid waste disposal in Accra, the capital of Ghana. He will also conduct research for his thesis while staying in Ghana.

Hector Addison, Ghana

Hector is currently registered for summer classes but is still contemplating taking a rest from school this summer. With a restful break from school, he feels that he will have renewed strength to complete the fall quarter with much vigor and excitement. He may rest in Columbus and later in Omaha during the summer months with family and friends.



Mohira Kurbanova, Uzbekistan - The Heart of Asia

Mohira is interning at the congressionally sponsored Open World Leaders Center located at the Library of Congress in Washington D.C. She will be responsible for researching, preparing and reviewing information for the Open World website; assisting in the development of the Open World Uzbek Pilot program; gathering and organizing press releases on the Center; assisting with updating Center documents; and communicating with program partners and other interested parties. She will have the opportunity to learn about the operations of the major U.S. government exchange programs and meet with emerging leaders in this field. She will also participate in leadership training, event and program planning, and in enhancing her written and spoken English.

Laura Mack, Los Angeles, California

Laura is traveling to Tanzania where she will intern for an organization entitled Women's Legal Aid Center (WLAC), located in Dar Es Salaam. WLAC is a human rights organization which works on promoting and protecting women and children's rights by bringing attention to gender equality in Tanzania through legal aid, legal research, networking, publications and outreach programs. She will be working for the WLAC from mid June till August 31st.



Collins Annin, Ghana

Collins will spend his summer break with his family in Columbus. During his stay in Columbus, he will also look for an internship. Collins will spend the first half of break working on his grant proposal on child abuse in Ghana by remaining in contact with the donor organization. He will return to Athens in early August to begin orientation for his position with Residence Life. Residence Life is a division of student Affairs that provides housing services for undergraduate students on campus. Their main goals are to build a community through living and learning together and increase awareness of others.

Kana Tamano, Japan

Kana will stay in Athens during the first summer session where she will take one class. In addition, she is trying to secure an internship with an organization in Cambodia that works with improving the health status of women.





Tae Ito, Japan

Tae is joining the educational program on the natural environment in Hawaii. She will conduct field research on the ecosystem in Hawaii. In particular, she will investigate the island's environment from the alpine to the shoreline. Tae is extremely excited about doing research on the marine environment in Hawaii.

Francisco Perez, Nicaragua

Francisco will intern in Guatemala from June 15th to August 20th. He will work with the USAID in his first project in Alta Verapaz, Quiche and Peten, Guatemala; registering land property in 13 indigenous communities. Specifically, he will perform 12 case studies with beneficiary families in order to determine their capability to access a credit program. For his second project, Francisco will work at the University of Rafael Landivar in designing public policies that will benefit the indigenous region. He will facilitate the National Conference on successful local rural development experiences.



Scott Kreps, Athens, Ohio

Scott will be continuing research in the area of value added regional farming within poor rural areas in preparation for his grant proposal. Interviews with individuals involved in community supported agriculture and successful initiatives therein will be coupled with literature research. He plans to learn Spanish as well and take a winter trip to Cuba with the potential of looking into agricultural cooperatives there. Scott will also be working part-time at Respite (a mental health crisis facility). Most importantly, he will spend as much time as possible with his son, Keaton.

Patrick Asante, Ghana

Patrick plans to accomplish two major projects this summer. First, he will spend quality time working on his grant proposal. This way, he will be ahead of the game when the Fall quarter begins. Second, he would like to intern with World Vision International at their National Office in the United States. He is still making arrangements to secure an internship there this summer.



Milton Koroma, Sierra Leone

Milton is remaining in Athens for the summer. He is enrolled in classes during the summer months of June and July. Milton will have the opportunity to earn extra credits and work on his grant proposal while in Athens for the summer. Milton is taking classes in Disease and Development in Africa, Agricultural Development in Africa, and an Independent Study.

Lisa Smith, Los Angeles, California

Lisa will do an internship in Washington DC with Co-op America, a non-profit organization whose mission is to provide the public with practical information for using consumer and investor power for social change. She will be helping to organize the annual "Green Festival" - a sort of environmental convention which is co-sponsored by Global Exchange. Her specific position will include working to gain greater participation in the festival from the Spanish-speaking community in Washington DC.

*José Trejo, Belize*

José will take courses during the first summer session in order to wrap up graduation requirements by December. After classes are finished, he will head home to Belize to conduct research for his thesis. His thesis focuses on environmental economics in Belize. The main focus is on producing a model which will be able to determine the marginal willingness to pay for a natural resource such as marine parks. Hopefully the paper will be able to serve as a bench mark for pricing the use of natural resources that will be useful to the Ministry of Tourism and the Ministry of the Natural Resources and the Environment Commerce and Industry.

Joseph Mugenga, Rwanda

Joseph is planning to do an internship at the United Nations Headquarters in New York city. However, the exact day Joseph moves to New York depends upon the possibility of teaching Kinyarwanda language in the SCALI program at Ohio University. If he is offered this job, Joseph will postpone his plan to move to New York until the fall.

*Maria Alexeiko, Russia*

The organization which kindly agreed to host Maria this summer is called the Moscow Center for Gender Studies. It is located in Moscow, Russia. The Moscow Center for Gender Studies (MCGS) was established by women-scholars as an independent nonprofit research institution in 1990. The Mission of MCGS is to prevent all types of discrimination against women and promote gender equality and justice in politics, the work place, society and the family. She will conduct research for her master's thesis on the effect of the transition economy on women in Russia. The internship begins on June 14th and ends in early August. Maria will stay with a friend while interning in Moscow.

Matt Korn, Athens, Ohio

Matt will live in San Pedro Sula, Honduras from July 10th to August 18th. He will conduct research for his thesis on the rise of the garment industry in Honduras as it relates to East Asian garment manufacturing firms.



CLASS OF 2004 FINAL PROJECTS

As part of graduation, all IDS students have to either write a thesis or a grant proposal. For a thesis, the student organizes a committee composed of three OU faculty members and defends his/her work in front of the committee. Students that chose to do a grant proposal must find an NGO, government agency, or other organization to work with in the formulation of the proposal. This organization will also carry out and fund the project. The student researches prospective donors who have a history of funding projects that the proposal is addressing. Also, an OU faculty member will act as a mentor for writing the grant. See below for descriptions of the Class of 2004 final projects.

Josephine Dawuni, Ghana

This proposal aims at seeking funds to establish a Women's' Resource Center in the Yendi District of Tamale, Ghana, as a means of exploring other avenues for enhancing girls educational advancement. The project seeks to adopt a community based approach to educate and raise awareness among the community in the importance of girls education, through the provision of support services to female students, the community leaders, and teachers in the district.

Joanna Binsfeld, Kenosha, Wisconsin

Joanna's thesis, "Similarities and Differences between a Progressive, Democratic School and Traditional School in regards to their Conflict Resolution Program," is a study examining conflict resolution program between two schools, one democratic and the other traditional. The thesis employs both qualitative methods of observation, interview and document analysis as well as quantitative methods of surveys. This study compares and contrasts trends between the two different school philosophies in regards to their approach to teaching the very important skill of conflict resolution.

Andrew Lavelle, Madison, Wisconsin

Andrew's grant proposal is project designed to help protect the endangered spectacled bear in Southeastern Ecuador. The proposal was written in collaboration with Fundación Cordillera Tropical (FCT), a conservation oriented NGO based in Cuenca, Ecuador. The project focuses on the creation of a compensation fund to pay farmers for cattle depredations caused by the spectacled bear. The project contains an education component, training of local community members as para-biologists, and opportunities for research. The project hopes also hopes to raise awareness of the bear in Ecuador and build community support for other FCT conservation initiatives in Ecuador.

Anaal Patel, San Diego, California

Anaal's thesis is a case study of a women's self help group in Arusha, Tanzania. It focuses on the creation and utilization of social capital by women's groups in order to gain access to resources and build upon existing ones. In particular, this study examines power relations within women's groups that determine the types of norms, networks, and interests that are promoted.

Danielle Matta, Cleveland, Ohio

The title of Danielle's thesis is "Examining the Determinants of Loan Repayment in the Dominican Republic." She completed her research at ADOPEM, a microfinance institution in the Dominican Republic that provides small loans to groups of two to five women that want to start up a small business. This thesis examines the effects of group composition (group size, time know members, number of family members) and information symmetry among group members on loan repayment rates. It also looks at how mechanisms of group lending such as peer monitoring and loan enforcement (peer pressure vs. group solidarity) affect loan repayment.

Tomoka Udagawa, Japan

Tomoka's grant proposal is for an orangutan conservation/ecotourism project in Sabah, Malaysia. In Sabah, the Sepilok Orangutan Rehabilitation Center works mainly in the rehabilitation of orphaned orangutans. This center has become very popular with tourists. Her project is to build a new facility in Sabah so that tourists can have more opportunities to encounter orangutans. By having a new facility, the center can generate more revenue to conserve wildlife. The center also expects this project to create job opportunities for local communities and increase awareness of endangered orangutans.

Chela Moore, Eleva, Wisconsin

Chela's thesis is entitled "El Arado: Breaking Ground for Payment for Environmental Services Based Opportunity Costs of Conservation." Working with Fundación Cordillera Tropical, an environmental NGO in the southeastern highlands of Ecuador, Chela completed semi-structured interviews with small-scale farmers in order to calculate the value of their production for corn and potato cultivation and dairy farming. These values serve as a proxy for their opportunity costs of conservation, which would serve as a basis for settling payments in a conservation program protecting cloud forest and paramo of the region.

Manabu Hirakawa, Japan

The goal of Manabu's grant proposal is to reduce urban poverty through creating a community garden in Bangkok, Thailand. It is a community based project which targets low income residents, especially slum dwellers. Community gardening can provide food for both household consumption and sale. Additional benefits of community gardening are to reduce the urban heat island effect and stagnant water, which is a serious problem in Bangkok.

Kanako Moore, Japan

Kanako's grant proposal is for the Philisisizwe Agency for Development (PAD) in South Africa. PAD is constructing a cultural village in the small town of Camperdown, which is located between Durban and Petermeritzburg in to attract tourists. They will also build a learning center in the cultural village. PAD's goal is to generate employment opportunities and alleviate poverty through the project for the organization and surrounding community.

Shuho Otani, Japan

Shuho's thesis examines the problems with internet development in China. The two major obstacles are the dilemma between Internet & Democracy and the digital divide. While the Chinese government encourages the development of internet industry, it also attempts to place restrictions on internet use. There is a significant digital divide among regions in China. There a few highly developed regions, but overall, most of China remains underdeveloped. Throughout her research, Shuho argues that China's long, complicated history is very different way from other countries in promoting the use of the internet. China will have to overcome past humiliation in order to achieve an online landscape with Chinese characteristics.

Minjung Kim, South Korea

Minjung's thesis is titled "Economic Restructuring to a Manufacturing Based Economy: Case Study of Ipswich, Australia." Her research analyzes the contributing factors for the establishment of a new manufacturing industry. By examining the transformation of the local economy from a coal mining base to a manufacturing base in the city of Ipswich, Australia, her research determines what favorable regional features attracted the manufacturing industry.

Alicya Lloyd, Trinidad and Tobago

Alicya's grant proposal is based on promoting a collaborative capacity building initiative between Ohio University and the University College of Barbados. The project focuses on ways that would allow Barbados to become better equipped to deal with the prevention and treatment of various infectious diseases which can negatively affect the country's social and economic development.

