

Fall 2016

SAIS IDEV Alumni Newsletter

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[Letter from the Director](#)



Greetings to our Alums.

Like much of the world, IDEV is awaiting what the recent election of Donald Trump as President of the United States is going to mean for our field. This is a time of disruption, and the direction our country is going to take is not clear. As I write, we have few details of what change is going to mean.

Yet the International Development Program at

SAIS has been through many changes. Our origin dates back to the late 1970s, when our first alumni studied at SAIS in a program called “Modernization Studies,” under Joan Nelson. In 1985, Grace Goodell launched “Social Change and Development,” and in 2001, the IDEV program was born under Frank Fukuyama with the help of Bill Douglas. IDEV merged with SC&D in 2008. Through all these changes, students studying development at SAIS have combined intellect, passion, and commitment to changes that would make the world a better place.

IDEV also continues to be a pioneer at SAIS. One of our goals has been to build bridges across programs. Our [China-Africa Research Initiative](#) links IDEV with China Studies and African Studies. As you will see below, we are bringing Dr. Alexander Bick from the State Department’s Policy and Planning Staff to teach our new course on Strategic and Humanitarian Dilemmas: Syria, co-sponsored by the Strategic Studies and Conflict Management.

The IDEV [Practicum Program](#), with Associate Director Dr. Tanvi Nagpal in charge, remains a sought-after option as a capstone for second year students. In addition to this year’s teams listed below, student teams have worked with many different clients, including Mercy Corps in the Philippines, LV Prasad Eye Institute in India, FEMSA Foundation in Mexico, the World Bank’s Water and Sanitation program in Cambodia, Promundo in Egypt, and the Sino-Africa Centre of Excellence Foundation (SACE) in Kenya. We continue to welcome suggestions for future practicum projects from alumni.

Now in my fifth year as Director of the International Development Program at SAIS, I continue to be impressed by the contributions our students make in and outside the classroom, and proud of their accomplishments, and their hearts.

We look forward to seeing you back at SAIS for a happy hour, a [Development Roundtable](#), or another event. Our October happy hour for alumni and students

had another strong turn-out from recent IDEV alums and from those that graduated some time ago. I was especially happy to welcome Liane Dorsey and Laureen Daly, both from the class that entered SAIS in 1980 and joined “Modernization Studies.”

Very best,
Deborah Brautigam

Social Media Update

We're happy to announce that IDEV is finally active on Twitter, LinkedIn and Instagram! We look forward to using these channels to help our alumni stay updated on all that the IDEV students and faculty are currently engaged in. To follow us on our social media portals, please click on the icons at the bottom of the newsletter.

New IDEV courses

- **Strategic and Humanitarian Dilemmas: Syria - Alexander Bick**

The course examines the causes, evolution, and policy options to respond to the war in Syria – a conflict that has confounded policy-makers and produced the world's worst current humanitarian disaster. The course provides students with an in-depth understanding of the complex dynamics driving the war and the dilemmas that have shaped the international response, as well as tools for addressing these dilemmas in other conflict and post-conflict environments in the Middle East and beyond.

Alexander Bick is former Director for Syria at the National Security Council where he was responsible for helping devise and coordinate all aspects of U.S. policy in Syria, including the strategy to defeat the Islamic State and diplomatic negotiations aimed at resolving the war. Dr. Bick was also a member of the Secretary of State's Policy Planning Staff and was a Presidential Management Fellow in the State Department's Bureau of Conflict and Stabilization Operations.

- **Food Policy, Systems and Security - Jessica Fanzo**

This course reviews the political landscape of food in high-, middle- and low-income countries and their interconnected food systems. Students who take this course will become familiar with both domestic and international food policy processes and typologies along with the key players in the international landscape, and will be able to critically analyze and debate how policy and science interact with regard to food security.

Jessica Fanzo is the Bloomberg Distinguished Associate Professor of Ethics and Global Food & Agriculture at the Johns Hopkins Berman Institute of Bioethics and the School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS). Prior to coming to Johns Hopkins, Dr. Fanzo was an Assistant Professor of Nutrition in the Institute of Human Nutrition and Department of Pediatrics at Columbia University in New York. She also served as the Senior Advisor of Nutrition Policy at the Center on Globalization and Sustainable Development at the Earth Institute.

- **Health Systems and Policy in Developing Countries - Sebastian Bauhoff and Rupali Limaye**

A good health system delivers quality services to all people, when and where they need them. This course offers a practical introduction to major issues, policies and practices related to health systems and health policy in a developing country

context. The course combines two perspectives. First, students will apply principles related to health systems strengthening and reform to develop a framework to strengthen and rebuild health systems in fragile states. Second, students will learn about and apply key insights from economics to understand health behaviors and health care markets, and to inform the design of health policy in low and middle-income countries.

Sebastian Bauhoff is a Research Fellow at the Center for Global Development. His current research focuses on innovative payment systems, such as results-based financing, and accountability interventions, such as citizen report cards. His prior work includes quantitative evaluations of medical insurance in Georgia; a voucher program in India; and performance-based financing in Rwanda. Dr. Bauhoff holds a PhD in Health Policy/Economics and a MPA in International Development from Harvard University.

Rupali Limaye joined the Johns Hopkins Center for Communication Programs (CCP) in November of 2006 as a program coordinator, providing programmatic support to social and behavior change communication projects in Africa. She subsequently served as a Program Officer, Program Officer II, Senior Program Officer, and currently serves as a Senior Program Officer II for the Center, as well as the Research Director for the K4Health project. In addition to her roles at CCP, Rupali serves as a Co-Investigator on two NIH grants through the Departments of Epidemiology and International Health at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health.

[News from the China Africa Research Institute \(CARI\)](#)



On October 13-14, SAIS-CARI held its 3rd annual conference at Johns Hopkins SAIS in Washington DC focused on "Chinese Infrastructure in Africa." The goal was to achieve a better understanding of the multiple sectors of Chinese infrastructure projects in Africa and their corresponding impacts on host African states. Jamie Monson, Professor of History and Director of African Studies at Michigan State University delivered the [keynote](#).

The panels included discussions on:

- [Roads, Railroads, and Ports](#)
- [Power](#)
- [Financing](#)
- [Environment and Corporate Social Responsibility](#)
- [Labor and Skills Transfer](#)

The annual conference is supported by a grant from Carnegie Corporation of New York. For a full description of the conference as well as video uploads of each of the panels, please visit our [website](#).



SAIS-CARI a founding member of UN-supported GReCEST

SAIS-CARI is one of 31 founding members of the Global Research Consortium on Economic Structural Transformation (GReCEST), which was formally launched on May 18, 2016 at the United Nations. GReCEST is organized by the [Africa Center for Economic Transformation \(ACET\)](#) and the [International Food Policy Research Institute \(IFPRI\)](#), and is a pillar of the [Global Coalition of Think Tank Networks for SSC \(GTTN\)](#) supported by UNDP and the [United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation](#). As a network of think tanks, the organization will aim to advance research on economic structural transformation as part of a South-South cooperation agenda. The emphasis on structural transformation covers poverty reduction, job creation, industrial upgrading and economic diversification across developing countries.

[Alumni Updates](#)

Lainie Thomas (Class of 1996), Asian Development Bank

Lainie Thomas is in her second year on ADB's health and education team for Southeast Asia, working on a range of projects, including an HIV project in Myanmar that includes some parts of the country that are conflict affected, a lower

secondary education project in Vietnam that builds schools and trains teachers in some of the most remote parts of the country, and a health and climate change project covering Lao PDR, Cambodia and Vietnam.

Zoe Cohen (Class of 2012), Echo Mobile

Despite focusing on Latin America before SAIS, Zoe Cohen took a job in Kenya after graduating in 2012 and has been bit by the Nairobi bug. She runs Echo Mobile, a mobile first customer engagement and data collection platform that allows organizations to use 2G channels (SMS, automated voice calls) to interact with their clients through automated conversation flows. Like many Nairobians, Zoe also has her "side hustle", Zoko Bags, making up-cycled handbags from used leather jackets.

Julienne Laufer (Class of 2016), Central Bank of Kenya

Julienne Laufer graduated from SAIS in May, and recently began work as an ODI Financial Inclusion Fellow with the Central Bank of Kenya in Nairobi, where she will be working for the next two years. The fellowship offers economists the opportunity to gain practical experience working within the public sector of developing country governments. In this role, Julienne will be analyzing CBK data to produce insights on financial inclusion, among other projects.



Colin Wright with Professor Tanvi Nagpal and Professor Cinnamon Dornsife at May 2016 Commencement. Photo Credit: Mrs. Wright

Stay connected!

We want to hear what you have been up to since graduation! Send your stories to saisidev@jhu.edu, and we will publish them in an upcoming newsletter. If you want to get in touch with other alumni from your year, below is contact information for the alumni chairs for recent classes:

Class of 2016: Mark Maples (mrmmaples@gmail.com) and Marco Gomez (mgomez239@gmail.com)

Class of 2015: Douglas Emeott (dwemeott@gmail.com) and Iva Panchilova

(iva.panchilova@gmail.com)

Class of 2014: Laura Sennet (lsennett@gmail.com) and Mark Radin
(radinmark@gmail.com)

Class of 2013: Katryn Bowe (katryn.bowe@gmail.com) and Priya Punatar
(ppunatar@gmail.com)

Class of 2012: Joe Wilson (wils.jt@gmail.com) and Carolyn Florey
(carolynflorey@gmail.com)

[SAIS Perspectives](#): the IDEV magazine



[SAIS Perspectives](#), the online magazine of the International Development

program, is now accepting blog posts or articles on any subject related to development, but particularly those entries that provide perspectives on **technology and development**.

With over 50 percent of the world's population expected to be online for the first time in 2017, technology and the role it plays in developing countries is taking center stage. What do these innovations mean for the distribution of political power, social inclusion, democratic governance and poverty reduction?

How to contribute:

Perspectives is looking for short blog pieces and articles that provide unique perspectives on international development to be published on the SAIS *Perspectives* website. Blogs or articles may be on any topic but the editorial staff is especially interested in entries providing insight on this year's theme. Send submissions to sais.perspectives@gmail.com along with your name, year, program and a short bio.

Follow on Twitter [@SAISdev](https://twitter.com/SAISdev)

Recent Articles

- [Harnessing the Power of Tech for Inclusive Governance in Pakistan](#) (Ammar Khalid, November 2016)

Popular Articles

- [Brazilian Refugee Policies: A Latin American Model?](#) (Michelle Mora, May 2016)
- [The Tahrir Square Legacy: The Impact of the Revolution on Civil Society in Egypt](#)

(Justin Ahmed, Laura Saiki Chaves, and Tchi Sogoyu, April 2016)

Perspectives Photo Contest Finalists



First Prize Winner

Jason Spizer

Location: Hargeisa, Somaliland

A shepherd moves his herd of camels on the road from Hargeisa at a livestock market in Somaliland, one of the hottest countries in the world.



Cole Novatt

Location: Xinjiang, China

This Uyghur man hangs his grapes to dry inside one of the many *chunches* that dot the Turpan landscape in Xinjiang Province, China. These *chunches* are a building unique to the Uyghurs; used to turn grapes into raisins simply through the constant flow of air through the hundreds of holes that pockmark the walls.



Julie Mae Gabato

Location: Amarapura, Myanmar

Transporting a sack of rice across a wide lake like the Tuangthaman Lake in, Amarapura, Myanmar is no small feat. Two cows, a carriage, and two handlers comprise the logistics requirements to ensure this sack of rice remains dry and reach the other town for consumption.

[Professor Maya Ajmera Book Launch: *Invisible Children*](#)



Professor Maya Ajmera, Adjunct Lecturer for International Development, has recently launched her new book, [*Invisible Children: Reimagining International Development at the Grassroots*](#), which she spoke on as part of the IDEV Development Roundtable series this semester. *Invisible Children* presents a new architecture for reaching the millions of children and young people who are untouched by any international assistance programs. Building on both the successes and challenges of several decades of development programs, this new book emphasizes the need to craft new approaches focused on the community level and utilizing indigenous NGOs based in the cultures and social nuances of the communities they serve.

[2016-17 Practicum Projects](#)

Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN), New Delhi, India - Improving

Municipal Nutrition Security in New Delhi - identifying key blockages in the value chains of selected nutritional food items in Delhi in order to propose intervention points for the Client.

World Wildlife Fund (WWF), Beijing, China - Promoting trade and investment in Green Products (GPs) between China and Kenya: develop key products and sectors in China, in tandem with team in Kenya, where GPs have the greatest economic and environmental benefit for China-Africa economic interactions.

World Wildlife Fund (WWF), Nairobi, Kenya - Promoting trade and investment in Green Products (GPs) between China and Kenya: develop key products and sectors in Kenya, in tandem with the team in China, where GPs have the greatest economic and environmental benefit for China-Africa economic interactions.

International Center for Research on Women (ICRW), Kampala, Uganda - Strategic planning for the recently opened ICRW African Regional Office: Stakeholder analysis and strategic proposal to guide the development of ICRW's activities in Africa.

Quona, Mumbai, India - Implementing the agile development model to enhance Quona's social performance management tool and facilitate the adoption of common valuation practices among portfolio clients.

Athena Infonomics, Chennai, India - Maternal and Child Health Data Management: Understanding the challenges around and improving MCH data collection, management, and analysis.

[Upcoming IDEV Events](#)

Spring 2017 IDEV Alumni Happy Hour

Date & Time: Thursday, April 13th, 6-7:30 PM

Location: Lauriol Plaza, 1835 18th Street NW

Final Practicum Client Presentations

Date & Time: Wednesday, April 26th, 12-2:00 PM

Location: Rome Auditorium, 1619 Massachusetts Ave NW

IDEV alumni, faculty and students at the Fall 2016 Happy Hour





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