

SAIS IDEV Alumni Newsletter

Letter from the Associate Director



Dear IDEVers,

What a year it has been! When we sent out our last newsletter, little did we know how radically political events would reshape our world. We now face unprecedented challenges to poverty and inequality reduction, and IDEV's work is more critical than ever. With your education and experience, you are among the most thoughtful advocates for continued support for effective international development aid and programs.

Now about IDEV: Our Program had another strong year! Practicum teams completed six challenging and rewarding assignments in India, Kenya, China and Uganda with a diverse group of clients. They will present their findings to the wider SAIS community and to their clients on Wednesday, April 26th. If you are in the area, please join us or view the live stream [here](#). We have added several new summer internships and

are excited that our first year students are taking full advantage of these opportunities, while continuing to seek their own. The Development Roundtable was a smashing success, with eight fabulous speakers and better attendance than we have ever seen. We have added new classes and enriched the curriculum based on student feedback. [Perspectives](#), our student run e-magazine, continues to attract more attention and submissions on technology and development. In short, IDEV remains as strong and vital as it has always been, and with your participation and support we will continue to expand opportunities for students in and out of the classroom.

Finally, congratulations to the IDEV class of 2017! You have worked hard and we can't wait to see the amazing things you will accomplish. Please stay in touch and come back to visit. And to all first year students, have a wonderful summer. See you in September!

Warm regards,

Tanvi

Alumni Updates

Kia Guarino (Class of 2016) recently accepted a job with Bill & Melinda Gates

Foundation focusing on Global Policy and Advocacy for Gender Equality and Maternal & Child Health. She is relocating to Seattle and very excited to work on protecting and promoting important global and domestic health issues.

Carolyn Nash (Class of 2013) has been living in Yangon, Myanmar since 2014. In 2016, she founded the Myanmar Center for Civic Leadership (www.myanmarleads.org), a nonprofit organization focused on developing tolerant and inclusive political leadership skills in young adults. In March 2017, MCCL accepted its first class of Myanmar Peace Makers, eleven young leaders who will study development, hate speech, and social cohesion while designing community peacebuilding projects. She is also working with UNESCO on youth-led solutions to violent extremism. In January 2017, she was offered a place in the winter Coaching Fellowship, a three-month professional development program for women of impact. She spends most of her free time on the Yangon International softball field playing catch with her husband **Jason Loughnane** (Class of 2012) and her son Tyler Nash Loughnane (Class of 2043).

Kabir Sethi (Class of 2014) just wrapped up 2.5 years as project leader with the Boston Consulting Group in Washington DC, and is now moving to a seaside apartment in Mumbai where he is close to family.

Tushar Thakkar (Class of 2016) has joined Dalberg Global Development Advisors as a Senior Project Manager in January 2017. As a Senior Project Manager, his role is to lead the execution of projects, in addition to participating in business development. While project managers in Dalberg typically work across sectors, in the initial few months, he has focused on the financial inclusion sector, including the exciting fields of digital finance and digital identification/national IDs.

Megan Vaughan-Albert (Class of 2012) is an engagement manager at Avascent,

a strategy and management consulting firm in Washington, D.C. that advises companies operating in government-driven markets. Megan focuses on growth strategy engagements for technology and healthcare clients. She and her husband Cody welcomed their first daughter in November 2016.

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 2017: Angela Madero (madero@jhu.edu) and Lauren Purnell (lpurnell@jhu.edu)
- 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)

New IDEV Adjunct Faculty

IDEV Program Assistant Nicole Kazi interviewed new adjunct faculty teaching at IDEV this year, asking them to answer two questions: What topic in development interests you most? What experiences have most shaped your interests in development? Their answers are below.



Alex Bick, PhD

Strategic and Humanitarian Dilemmas: Syria

My interests in development are two-fold: first, I'm fascinated by the long-term development of political and economic systems -- what the philosophers of the Scottish Enlightenment referred to as "the growth of civilization," but social scientists today more prosaically call the process of state formation. How do societies accumulate wealth and power, in the places and at the times that they do? What factors help bind societies together? Conversely, what factors lead to discord and political and economic decline?

Second, I'm interested in contemporary humanitarian and development assistance. This stems from my childhood, when I spent a year in rural Liberia and witnessed first-hand the insurgency that ultimately tore the country apart. I've since worked on a half-dozen conflicts around the world, in each case trying to understand and improve how assistance programs interact with national politics. My course at SAIS this semester concludes with an examination of the challenges and potential for reconstruction to contribute to peace in Syria.



David Kyle, MA

Social Entrepreneurship: Driving Innovation in Development

I'm interested in testing new business model solutions to delivering essential goods and services to low income consumers at an affordable price.

I had the good fortune to grow up in Latin America as a child, which combined with politically progressive parents, led to an early awareness of huge income disparities around the world.



Jeff Edmeades, PhD, MA

Principles of Evaluation for Development Projects

My motivation for working in development is very much based on a view that every single one of us deserves access to the key features of basic human rights, which I view as central to the ability to live a happy and fulfilling life. Over the past decade, much of my work has focused on gender inequality, which often lies behind the denial of rights to both women and men and contributes to virtually all of the most pressing development challenges we face in one way or another. The policy and programming challenges involved

with working to enhance gender equitable norms and behavior are significant – which makes it an incredibly interesting and rewarding area to work in!

I grew up in developing countries (mainly Mexico and Ghana), so the challenges and questions around development more broadly have always been something that interested me. As a 'third-culture' kid, simultaneously at home in and outside of multiple cultures, I've always been fascinated by the drivers of development outcomes, especially social processes. But the experiences that keep in the development field are really the ones I've had in the field - especially with adolescent girls, who are often both very disadvantaged and committed to taking advantage of any opportunity they have to improve their lives. Their strength and resilience is what makes development such as rewarding field to work in.



Carolyn Florey, MA

Digital Development: Innovative Use of Technology in Emerging Markets

The digital gender divide is the topic that interests me the most - the gap in access, connectivity, and usage to digital technologies for women and girls in developing countries. We are teaching a course about the impact we believe technology can have in international development as an enabler and tool that can be leveraged to achieve more impact, effectiveness and efficiency across all sectors. However, the gap for women for access to both mobile phones and the internet is striking; in order to realize the impacts of digital in emerging economies, we must address this gap.

Prior to graduate school, I was a William J. Clinton Fellow for Service through the American India Foundation and this shaped a great deal of my thinking and interests. I worked with Breakthrough, a women's rights organization in Delhi; they use new and traditional media to reach audiences about women's sexual and reproductive health. This innovative use of technology set me on a path to learn more about tech and development.

The summer during graduate school also shaped my interests; I interned for the Africa Soil Information Service and helped to create an ODK mobile survey for Androids and tablets that we used to collect data about farmers' yields. Working on tool development and piloting was helpful to see the practical application of technology in development settings. These two experiences were foundational for me and helped provide an introduction to how technology could truly be transformative in international development.

[SAIS Perspectives](#)



Photo Credit: Itt Thiraratt, Machu Picchu, Peru

SAIS *Perspectives* is the flagship, student-run publication of the SAIS IDEV program.

This year's theme is "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. With mobile banking, portable solar panels, crowdfunding, and geolocation services, there are scarcely any people or places that are not impacted by improvements or changes that transform their lives. What do these technological innovations mean for the distribution of political power, social inclusion, democratic governance and poverty reduction? How will this impact sustainability and growth in developing countries?

How to contribute: SAIS *Perspectives* is now accepting short blog pieces and

articles that provide unique perspectives on international development to be published on its 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.

Recent Articles

"Electrifying Sub-Saharan Africa Sustainably with Renewable Energy," by Joniel Cha: <http://www.saisperspectives.com/2017issue/renewable-energy-africa>

"Business, Technology and Development: A Conversation with Nina Gardner," by Grace Cramer: <http://www.saisperspectives.com/idevblog/2017/3/6/uo1z4r4kyaze3cmjvr16vpl9ra8lrd>

"A Call to Arms: How the Growing Reach of ICT Promotes Transparency and Accountability," by Grace Cramer: <http://www.saisperspectives.com/2017issue/2017/3/3/a-call-to-arms-how-the-growing-reach-of-ict-promotes-transparency-and-accountability>

"How Tech Can Help Collect Local Development Data," by Jorge de León Miranda: <http://www.saisperspectives.com/idevblog/2017/1/31/can-technology-solve-the-problem-of-missing-local-development-results-data>

Practicum Projects



The Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition team went to New Delhi, India, and worked on identifying key blockages in the value chains of selected nutritional food items to propose intervention points for the Client.

Photo Credit: GAIN Team



The International Center for Research on Women team travelled to Kampala, Uganda, to perform stakeholder analysis and strategic proposal to guide the development of ICRW's activities in Africa.

Photo Credit: ICRW Team



The WWF China team traveled to Beijing to develop key products and sectors in China, in tandem with the team in Kenya, where GPs have the greatest economic and environmental benefit for China-Africa economic interactions.

Photo Credit: WWF China Team



The Athena Infonomics team traveled to Chennai, India to better understand the challenges around and improve Maternal and Child Health data collection, management, and analysis.

Photo Credit: Athena Team

Upcoming Events



IDEV alumni, students, and faculty at the Spring 2017 Alumni Happy Hour.

Photo Credit: Shreya Das

- **Final Practicum Client Presentations**
Date & Time: Wednesday, April 26th, 4:30-7:00 PM
Location: Rome Auditorium, 1619 Massachusetts Ave NW
- **SAF Final Presentation**
Date & Time: Friday, April 28th, 3-4:00 PM
Location: Kenney Herter Auditorium, 1740 Massachusetts Ave NW
- **Commencement**

- Date & Time: Thursday, May 25, 11:00 AM
Location: DAR Constitution Hall, 1776 D Street NW



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