IDS Graduate Receives Princeton in Africa Fellowship
By Ciarra Barreras

Ciarra Barreras graduated from the University of Montana in Spring 2010 with a BS in Biology and a minor in International Development Studies. After graduation she received a Princeton in Africa Internship (http://www.princeton.edu/piaf/) and is currently working as a secondary education chemistry teacher in the rural community of Yetebon about 3 hours south of Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

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Going into my senior year at the University of Montana, I was uncertain about my post-graduation plans. I wanted to go to medical school, but the lengthy and costly application process was not a feat I wanted to undertake while trying to finish my degree. I have always had a passion for Africa and as an IDS minor, I spent the past three years actively seeking more information about the complexities of working in development. A friend recommended that I look into Princeton in Africa, a program that “seeks to develop young leaders committed to Africa’s advancement.” Having volunteered in Uganda for seven months after high school, I had a general idea of what areas of development I was interested in and which countries I would like to explore. I did my research on PIaF and found many of my personal interests were well matched with Princeton’s placements. I mailed off my application in November, and in December was invited to interview. I chose to fly to Princeton to interview in person, which I highly recommend for applicants serious about being selected. It was well worth the effort. I was offered a contract as Johnson & Johnson’s fellow working for Project Mercy in Yetebon, Ethiopia.

Project Mercy (http://www.projectmercy.org/) is a multifaceted organization that takes a holistic approach to development. In addition to the school, they are operate a hospital, a cattle breeding project, income generating projects, skills workshops, an orphanage, and many public health and economic growth projects. Due to the numerous projects going on, I have been able to volunteer my time in various fields. So far I have been involved in a soap making entrepreneurial project, a midwifery workshop, and a free clinic that served over 700 community children. However, my primary role is as the high school chemistry teacher. I teach four classes a day that range in size from 8-98 students. The communication barrier is considerable, especially with my younger classes so I strive to make my lessons extremely visual and interactive. I am also the laboratory proctor for biology and physics. I’m working with the local teachers to create a laboratory curriculum they can teach. Watching the teachers’ confidence improve and seeing science come alive for our students in the laboratory, is the most enjoyable and most sustainable part of my job. I am confident that at the end of my year here, the interactive, laboratory based curriculum will continue to increase the quality of education in Yetebon for years to come.

Although I am working in education, Princeton in Africa offers a variety of different fellowship in public health, engineering, humanitarian aid, and other sectors. Prospective Fellows should keep an open mind about organizations and countries, but have a few specific placements of interest. If you want to gain some valuable hands on experience in development, and think you have the passion and the flexibility to live and work in Africa for a year, I highly recommend that you apply for a Princeton in Africa Fellowship.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE
1. IDS Graduate Receives Princeton in Africa Fellowship
2. IDS Faculty Happenings
3. IDS Student Spends Year Abroad
4. Ardina Hasanbasri Receives Koehn / Ngai Scholarship

IDS Director Receives 2011 Michael P. Malone International Leadership Award

IDS Director, Professor Peter Koehn, received the 2011 Michael P. Malone International Leadership Award. The award, presented annually by the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities’ Commission on International Programs, recognizes faculty and staff who do not have international activities or programs as a primary responsibility, but through their advocacy and leadership have made an outstanding contribution to furthering international education. Koehn was chosen for the award, in part, for his incorporation of international considerations in scholarship, program development, and teaching both at home and abroad.
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Some marriages may even entail paying kickbacks to the Japanese "spouse." Marriage migration in the Thai community in Japan is a modern-day reflection of the Regency World of Jane Austen's Sense and Sensibility. For some Thai women in Japan, marriage is merely a pragmatic arrangement, while others hold out for romance, companionship, and love.

During her research, Sobieszczyk experienced the country's large earthquake, innumerable aftershocks, and the Fukushima Nuclear Power Plant disaster. Five people in Chiba prefecture were killed by the tsunamis, but most structures and roadways in the Tokyo metropolitan area suffered little damage. She survived cut offs of running water, periodic rolling power outages, and shortages of rice, bread, milk, batteries, and toilet paper. She recorded the Japanese and Thai community's responses to the disasters and noted that the Thai children in Tokyo were so terrified that even months later, if a serious aftershock occurred, they would silently pack their backpacks with their favorite toys and prepare to evacuate. Clearly, the challenge of rebuilding communities, schools, and families is great and our hearts will be with the Japanese people for many years to come.

Teresa Sobieszczyk with Thai informant, in front of Wat Paknam, a Thai Buddhist temple in Chiba, Japan

IDS Steering Committee member Teresa Sobieszczyk spent over three months in Tokyo, Japan, in spring 2011. She lived in Chiba, a suburb of Tokyo, and conducted qualitative research in the expatriate Thai community. Thais working in Japan frequently want to remain in Japan in the long term because of the large wage differentials between Thailand and Japan. Given Japan's tight immigration restrictions, Thai women often resort to marrying either Japanese natives or Thai chefs with long-term residency status.

This fall, Dan Spencer is leading student learning excursions around the globe as faculty member on the Semester at Sea program. Since 1963, the non-profit Institute for Shipboard Education has launched 100 Semester at Sea voyages, educated more than 50,000 students from 1,500 institutions, and traveled to more than 60 countries. Their mission is to "to educate individuals with the global understanding necessary to address the challenges of our interdependent world. With the world as our classroom, our unique shipboard program integrates multiple-country study, interdisciplinary coursework, and hands-on field experiences for meaningful engagement in the global community." For more information on the Semester at Sea Program visit their website at [http://www.semesteratsea.org/voyages/overview/](http://www.semesteratsea.org/voyages/overview/). Jeff Bookwalter also received a sabbatical for the 2011/2012 academic year. During fall semester, Jeff is spending time with his new baby and preparing for spring semester in South Africa. While in South Africa, he will be conducting research and teaching. Watch for more on these faculty adventures in upcoming newsletters.

Teresa Sobieszczyk with Thai informant, in front of Wat Paknam, a Thai Buddhist temple in Chiba, Japan

IDS Faculty Kimber Haddix McKay Works on Ugandan Health Study

Kimber Haddix McKay, Associate Professor in the Department of Anthropology, worked with students and Ugandan colleagues on a study of disease prevalence and health seeking behavior in central Uganda. Professor McKay and two UM students, undergraduate Ann Tezak and graduate student Laura Stanley, are working with the traditional healer organization PROMETRA. Their study based on the interplay between traditional and allopathic healing systems.

Two IDS Faculty on Sabbatical

Two IDS Faculty Receive Paul Lauren Undergraduate Research Faculty Mentor Award

Two IDS faculty Peter Koehn, Professor, Department of Political Science, and Dan Spencer, Associate Professor, Environmental Studies Program, were awarded inaugural Paul Lauren Undergraduate Research Faculty Mentor awards. The award was established in 2011 to recognize UM faculty members who excel in guiding undergraduate students in their Davidson Honors College research projects. The award pays tribute to Regents Professor Paul Gordon Lauren, who has served as an exemplary faculty mentor to many undergraduates pursuing advanced research in history and other fields. If interested in nominating your favorite IDS faculty the next round of nominations for the Paul Lauren Undergraduate Research Faculty Mentor Award are due on February 24, 2012.

Professor Ngai Attends the Riddu Riddu International Indigenous People’s Festival

In July, Phyllis Ngai, Communication Studies, attended the Riddu Riddu International Indigenous People’s Festival ([http://www.riddu.no/home/21023.en.html](http://www.riddu.no/home/21023.en.html)) in Mannedalen, Norway, as part of a UM delegation to the Sámi Studies Center, University of Tromsø. Dr. Ngai spoke on "Indigenous Education in the Interconnected World of the 21st Century" at the Seminar on Indigenous Peoples and Multicultural Societies: Intergenerational Indigenous Knowledge and the Global Village held at the Festival.

UM delegation and University of Tromsø faculty outside the tent where the seminar was held.

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IMS Faculty Happenings

Mansfield Center and University Small Grant Support IDS Faculty Migration Research in Japan

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IDS STUDENT SPENDS YEAR STUDYING ABROAD

My name is Roxy Steinberg, and I am a senior majoring in International Business, Spanish, and Management, with minors in International Development Studies, and Communication Studies. I have known for a long time that I wanted to study abroad during my college career, but I had no idea that UM’s many study abroad programs and possibilities would allow me to take a year to fulfill that dream and also study in two different countries on different sides of the world. When I first started looking into my options I was planning on studying in Spain. Then, my plan morphed into Argentina and Spain, and, after a long story, turned into Argentina and New Zealand. The school year of 2010 to 2011 took me from mate and extensive bus rides to jandals and zorbing. As a triple major, I spent the fall in Córdoba, Argentina, at La Universidad Católica de Córdoba, and the spring in Aotearoa, beautiful New Zealand, at The University of Waikato in Hamilton. These experiences are almost entirely incomparable, yet both were invaluable to me. I went to Argentina through the ISEP Direct program (www.isep.org/) where I lived in off campus University accommodations and took International Business and Management classes. I saw wild kangaroos and koalas, went sandboarding in Rotowhino, and did the Nevis bungee jump in Queenstown. I made some of the most incredible friends, did things that I will never again get the opportunity to do, and made memories to last a lifetime. I would be happy to talk with anyone with questions or concerns about related interests. roxy.steinberg@umontana.edu

IDS, IE3, and International Internships

One of the many ways IDS students can find internship opportunities is through the UM’s participation in the IE3 program. The University of Montana partnership with IE3 Global Internships provides UM students with a broad variety of overseas internship activities. Through IE3 Global Internships students earn academic credit while gaining professional experience abroad. Internships are available in a variety of private-sector companies, nonprofit organizations, and educational institutions around the world. IE3 offers internships in nearly every academic discipline. For example, IE3 interns might: teach children in extreme poverty at a community center in Argentina; learn about eco-farming, business, and tourism at a retreat in India; do urban planning in Jordan; work for a human rights organization in South Africa; seek non-violent solutions to international problems at a peace center in Costa Rica; work as a staff member in the Scottish parliament in Scotland; teach English to kids in the Kyrgyz Republic; help take care of cheetahs in Namibia; or dozens of other fascinating internship opportunities. Once you have identified which of the many internships interest you, complete an online application, and, once accepted, IE3 will provide a pre-departure orientation, international health insurance, learning tools and monitoring and support. There are tuition offsets for UM interns and travel scholarships available from IE3. Already five IDS students have completed rewarding IE3 internships. Meaghan Chambers went to Kenya, Alexa Lawson internship took her to Ethiopia, Jennifer Gursky, the current ASUM President, served in Malaysia, Kendall Houghton interned in Jordan, and Kelly Smith worked in South Africa. The deadline for summer internships is coming up on January 25, 2012. For more information, contact Kevin Hood (kevin.hood@mso.umt.edu) and visit the IE3 website http://ie3global.ous.edu/. Stay tuned for stories of IDS student’s IE3 adventures in upcoming newsletters.

IDS BY THE NUMBERS

IDS recently completed a Program Review self study outline that provided insights into the interdisciplinary popularity of the IDS minor. Although IDS began only 6 years ago, more 250 students have enrolled to date. Since the inception of IDS, it has attracted students from across campus. The majority of our students are Political Science majors (71), Environmental Studies (22), Anthropology (20), and Sociology (20) are all heavily represented. A number of students from Resource Conservation (12), Journalism (9), Economics (8), Social Work (7), Communication (7), History (5), Business (5), and Biology (5) also have taken advantage of the opportunities offered by IDS. In addition, we have a few students majoring in Spanish, Recreation Management, Geology, English, Math, Nursing, Russian, Theater, and Religious Studies. Of the 250 students who enrolled in IDS, over 35% are current IDS students. Of the remaining students who are registered for the IDS minor, 75% (114) graduated with the minor, 14% (22) dropped the minor, and 8.5% (13) left UM without graduating. As we go to press, 86 IDS minors are taking classes across campus, making IDS the largest “unattached” interdisciplinary minor on campus.
Ardina Hasanbasri Receives Koehn/Ngai Scholarship

Ardina Hasanbasri is the 2011 Peter Koehn and Phyllis Ngai Scholarship award for an international student who is an IDS minor. Ardina first moved to the United States when she was six. Her family followed her father who was studying for his PhD. After three years, the family moved back to Indonesia requiring Ardina to adapt to different languages, customs, and cultures. The clash of cultures that she experienced made her explore ways to break free. Books and stories gave her comfort as she read tales from different cultures and places. In high school, she joined the debate team and managed to become the eighth ranked speaker in the national Indonesian School Debating Championship. Later, Ardina traveled to Australia and Japan for exchange programs. Debating, critical thinking, and traveling provided her with an understanding of multiple perspectives. Recognizing that it is important to have good communication skills across cultures and between countries in today’s globalized world, Ardina is interested in closing the gap that exists in the communication between the so called developed and developing countries. “Many governmental and non-governmental projects require the two to work together in health, education, trade, etc” she wrote in her application letter.

Ardina chose to major in economics because she believes that poverty is a form of entrapment. She would like to use economic tools to help decrease poverty levels, especially in her home country of Indonesia. Last year, she participated in an international summer program in Indonesia which focused on interfaith dialog, culture, and conflict resolution. This past summer, she worked with a local NGO in Indonesia, PUPUK, which deals with aid from corporations that have Corporate Social Responsibility programs. Currently, Ardina is working on her thesis proposal, which focuses on the effects of aid or cash transfers on consumption by people who are living below the poverty line in Indonesia, particularly with a focus on how they will allocate the cash that is given to them.

Congratulations Ardina!

IDS Reception Highlights

Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs, Perry J. Brown, was the keynote speaker at the 2011 IDS Spring Reception that took place in Brantly Hall on April 19, 2011. Provost Brown emphasized UM’s commitment to international studies with the students and faculty gathered. In addition, IDS senior Kayla Hoggart talked about the value of the IDS program and IDS student and new ASUM President Jen Gursky shared her international experience and enthusiasm for the IDS minor. The first six IDS graduates receiving a PCPP generalist certificate were recognized. Then Kevin Hood spoke to the group about IE3 internship possibilities. After the program everyone enjoyed a cornucopia of delicious food prepared by UM Catering Service.

International Development Studies

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