¡Saludos! My name is David Schaad and I am an IDS minor also studying Spanish, environmental studies, and climate change.

Ever since I began studying in Spanish in the ninth grade, I have dreamed of plotting a course for a South American country to live with its people and perfect my language abilities. Although funding the trip was challenging, Laure Pangelly-Drake of the Davidson Honors College provided some key mentoring and helped bring scholarships within reach, including the Honorable Mention of the Udall Scholarship. In February, grateful for these resources, I embarked on the trip of a lifetime, flying six thousand miles south from Missoula for a semester of immersion-based study abroad in Valparaiso, Chile. I soon found that I was learning just as fully about my own country of origin as I was about Chile, by stepping beyond the borders of my homeland and looking in from the outside.

What I encountered in Chile gave me great hope for humanity and a collective future more firmly rooted in alignment with regard to resource use and environmentalism. In fact, Valparaiso and many of the towns I was able to visit in Chile seemed to be more developed in terms of small-scale business and resilience to increasing oil prices. Every two blocks in the central district of any city there seems to be another bakery, another meat market, another pharmacy, another cake shop. And despite increasing my consumption of white bread about 800% (Chileans are second only to Germany in their consumption of bread), I gained little weight on account of all the walking within and around my host city.

In Chile, fewer people drive their own cars, with so many good transit options. Instead, the micro, or micro-bus, can take you quite literally anywhere you need to go in town – no matter what neighborhood. As a student, the new and expanding metro was by far the cheapest and fastest option for my commute to school – and it was such a pleasure to ride, with unparalleled ocean views and live music from entrepreneurial locals playing the charango, panpipes, guitar, or accordion – that I rode it whenever possible. Taxis run constantly, even at four in the morning. Double-decker busses provide reliable and regular transportation between cities.

And while recycling is just starting to take off in Chile, their carbon and resource footprints were far eclipsed by my own. People measure their lives not by means of their material wealth, but in terms of their social riches, and although they have less stuff, rooted in a family-oriented culture, they seem to be far happier and less stressed than the average estadounidense – U.S. American.

Returning home to the U.S. after nearly six months abroad has transformed my worldview and opened me to perspectives previously unknown. I am eager to continue to explore what Chile, and its people, offer to teach us through a post-travel blog, which I will be adding to throughout the semester, at http://davidschaad.blogspot.com/.
IDS STUDY ABROAD COURSES

MEXICO FIELD COURSE
Professor Paul Haber leads a study abroad program ideal for IDS students. His six week field course to Mexico runs from May to early July 2013. Students take two IDS classes, Development Administration, an IDS core course and Politics of Mexico, an IDS content course as well as intensive Spanish in small classes with naïve speakers. Students also live with host families. If interested, take a look at http://www.cas.umt.edu/mexico/default.html or contact Paul.Haber@umontana.edu.

STUDY CLIMATE CHANGE IN VIETNAM
Professor Dan Spencer leads an exploration of the cities, river deltas, floating markets, riverside villages and beaches of Vietnam. The field-based, experiential course will study climate change, development, and Vietnamese culture in the captivating backdrop of the Mekong Delta. IDS students participating in the Climate Change in Vietnam program IDS students this can receive IDS content credits. Though the registration deadline has passed for this year, watch for this exciting course in upcoming years. Contact Dr., Dan Spencer Daniel.spencer@umontana.edu for more information.

INDIAN HIMALAYA FIELD COURSE
Professor Keith Bosak offers a study abroad opportunity to meet with development officials, Indian state of Uttarkhand. Students have the opportunity to meet with development officials, sustainability activists and other stakeholders in the region. The Himalaya Field Course includes Tourism and Sustainability, an IDS core course, and Tourism, Livelihoods, and Sustainability in the Himalayas. For more information contact Keith Bosak, keith.bosak@umontana.edu

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE & SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN NICARAGUA
Professor Dan Spencer guides students through two weeks of adventures exploring the challenges of prioritizing land conservation amongst a growing rich poor gap, the impacts of international trade agreements on sustainable development, and the relationships between deforestation, water pollution and indigenous peoples. Students examine these issues by engaging in dialogue with Nicaraguan organizations, taking part in field trips, and interacting with people from diverse backgrounds. The Nicaragua trips also includes overnight stays with rural families, travel down the San Juan River on open air boats, and a visit to the Rio Indio-Maiz ecological reserve. For more information contact Dr. Dan Spencer at Daniel.spencer@umontana.edu.

IDS FACULTY UPDATES
Peter Koehn, Political Science, travelled to Washington, D.C., in June and July to participate as the sole university-community representative on the APLU-organized peer-review team to determine the Implementing Entity for the Borlaug Higher Education Agricultural Research and Development (BHEARD) Program. BHEARD, a 5-year program with an initial commitment of $3.8 million from USAID’s Bureau of Food Security, aims to build human and institutional capacity in four African countries (Ghana, Mali, Mozambique, Zambia) and in Bangladesh to support the goals of President Obama’s Feed the Future initiative.

Hello fellow IDS students! I hope your summer has been enjoyable and fall schedules are now falling into place smoothly. To make the transition into fall semester less stressful, I decided to take on an internship this summer that incorporates the educational demands for both the environmental studies major as well as the IDS minor. After looking around, I decided to intern at the Jeanette Rankin Peace Center (JRPC). The JRPC was founded in 1986 as a center point for education, discussion, and action towards a more ethical and just society and world. Today, it continues to be a driving force in movements towards peace, justice, and sustainability. As an intern, I am working on several projects that focus around everything from community outreach, to education, to fundraising, to event planning, to fair trade projects and producer relationships; all of which are extremely important for spreading the word of hot topic issues and solutions to the public. Since the internship commenced in July, I have gained worlds of experience working on projects that focus on everything from community outreach and education, to fundraising, to event planning, to fair trade products and relationships. In addition to working at the JRPC, I have also partnered up through the JRPC with local activist, Liz Stoeckel, to make Missoula a fair trade town (information at www.fairtradetownusa.org) which will be a difficult, yet rewarding, challenge.

The center is an amazing resource for the community, especially for those interested in international development and justice issues. With a dedicated staff and a library holding over 2,000 books and tapes, it is the perfect place to turn to when a paper seeks depth on a wide variety of topics. One goal throughout my two semester internship is to turn a visit to the JRPC into an experience. Free coffee and pastries held in the library will create a welcoming environment; perfect for any curious mind wanting a good book or discussion with other like-minded individuals. Throughout the next two semesters, I will be challenged to set goals and work on projects that work toward my educational interests, so be on the lookout for new developments at the JRPC! Send an email or come down to say hi, ask a question, or poke around the fair trade store to find ways you, too, can get involved on both local and international issues this year!

IDS completed its first Program review in the 2011/2012 academic year with stellar results. The review provided IDS with an opportunity to examine our mission and goals, budgeting, program growth, educational enhancements, and retention efforts, allowing us to identify critical needs for program growth. The primary need identified was the increase of the IDS Program Coordinator position from 1/4 time to 1/2 time. Due to the high quality of our program UM administration agreed that this was a critical need to continue IDS program excellence. As a result, our program coordinator, Delyla Wilson, is now working 20 hours per week and has office hours in SS 302 on Tuesday and Wednesday from 1pm to 3pm. This will help ensure that IDS can fulfill its potential as a distinguished international program at the University of Montana.
Hello, my name is Alec and I'm a student in my senior year from the University of Montana, Missoula. My major is in Russian and I have two minors in Arabic and International Development Studies. This semester I am living in Amman, Jordan and doing an internship with an organization called Ruwwad. This is an organization that promotes community empowerment and development in the disadvantaged community of Jabal Natheef. Most people living in this community are Palestinian refugees. Many of the programs at Ruwwad are centered on youth development. Using arts, drama and sports as an expressive outlet for children and teens. It also has a strong program in psychosocial support, which provides adults and parents with knowledge and skills in how to raise children. It is culturally thought of as "ok" to use physical abuse to raise children in this neighborhood, and Ruwwad is fighting to change that mentality. They also have a scholarship program for teens who have just graduated or will be graduating to attend the university here. To be eligible for the scholarship, they are required to put in at least 5 or more hours of volunteer time to Ruwwad.

My work for Ruwwad consists of giving conversation classes in English to help improve peoples chances in the professional world. Since English is the language of business, it is important for them to know how to speak correctly should they go into a job interview that is conducted in English. The second part of my job is working with kids and teaching drama. My other work consists of giving workshops and leading discussions about alternative methods to child punishment. I will mostly be speaking with mothers from the community.

I'm very excited to be working abroad for a community organization that is primarily focused on development. I hope to continue working for other organizations after graduation that promote international development, and put my skills from the International Development Studies program to use.

During the 2011/2012 academic year, IDS has grown and deepened as a University of Montana minor. Student enrollment continues to increase. There were 108 IDS students enrolled as of April 2012, a 74% rise from spring 2011. During the 2011/2012 AY, 30 IDS students graduated with the IDS minor (with an average GPA of 3.4) and 43% of those students graduated with High Honors or Honors. The Peace Corps Preparatory Program grew by over 300% in the past year, with 21 IDS students graduating with Peace Corps Prep Generalist Certificates this year, 15 more than last year. In addition, IDS students received the first three specialization certificates -- two in Civic Engagement and one in the Health specialization. In response to the IDS Annual Report UM President Royce Engstrom commented, "I am pleased to see that the enrollment is growing so rapidly in the program; that clearly speaks to both the relevance of the program and the quality of the faculty members involved in it." IDS continues to attract a rich variety of minors from disciplines across campus, including Political Science, Environmental Studies, Sociology, Resource Conservation, the School of Journalism, Anthropology, Spanish, History, Business, Economics, Geography, German, Pharmacy, and Theater.