

IDS Alumni Panel Winter 2014

Kristen Bustamante **Graduated in 2006, Political Economy and Administrative Change area**

Kristen graduated from the International Development Program in 2006. In her last year of study, she attended the ["Trent in Ghana" program](#) offered through Trent University, providing the opportunity to combine theory and practice in international development issues. Since graduating from the University of Guelph, Kristen has completed an MA in Immigration and Settlement Studies from Ryerson University and worked as a Research and Policy Analyst for the Government of Ontario. Kristen is now the Director of Operations for [YMCA Immigrant Services in Waterloo Region](#).

Hilary Coburn **Graduated in 2011, Environmental and Development area, minor in Spanish**

After graduation, Hilary traveled and volunteered in Central America for 6 months and attended Queen's Outdoor Experiential Education Teachers College. After a year of working at outdoor education centres and with [Me to We](#) as a Trips Facilitator in Ecuador and Ghana, Hilary is currently teaching grade 11 and 12 at an outdoor, integrated program called the [Bronte Creek Project](#). She has dreams of opening up another program like BCP in the future!

Ashley Lowenthal **Graduated in 2013, Gender and Development area**

Since graduating from the program this past summer, Ashley has begun a Masters of Social Work at Wilfrid Laurier University. She is currently in a practicum at the [Guelph Community Health Center](#) in a community development position. She also works as a youth support worker for [Wyndham House](#), a local youth shelter. After finishing her masters she hopes to continue working in community development to further social justice goals, especially in the areas of youth engagement, sexual health, sexual violence prevention, and homelessness.

Courtney Mollenhauer **Graduated in 2010, Gender and Development area, minor in Sociology**

Since graduating from U of G in 2010, Courtney has split her time working overseas and in Canada. She spent two years working in non-profit and corporate communications roles in Toronto and recently completed a postgraduate International Development certificate at Humber College. In the last several years, Courtney has also travelled to 30 countries in 6 continents and completed development placements in South Africa and Vietnam. She has just returned home from abroad and hopes to further pursue a career in international project management.

David Amaya **Graduated in 2007, Political Economy and Administrative Change area**

After graduating from the University of Guelph, David Amaya completed a CIDA internship as a Program Officer with [Christian Children's Fund of Canada in Nicaragua](#). David gained international work experience in monitoring and evaluation of HIV and AIDS prevention programs. Following his internship, David continued his studies at McMaster University where he pursued a Master of Divinity.

David currently works for [World Vision Canada](#) as a Quality Assurance Officer in the International Programs Department. He has been with World Vision for nearly 10 years in various capacities. David's future plans include pursuing further opportunities within the field of international development.

David lives in Toronto with his wife, Sarah. He enjoys sports, reading, and travelling the world.

Leah Culver**Graduated in 2009, Latin American Studies area**

Leah Culver is a Sociocultural Anthropologist with a background in international development and rural and agricultural development. She completed her BA in International Development in 2009 and then went on to complete an MA in Public Issues Anthropology and International Development at the University of Guelph. Her MA thesis was titled "Small Farmer Entrepreneurs and Direct Markets: Negotiating structures and agency at city markets in Asunción, Paraguay".

Today Leah is working as a Human Environment Consultant with [Shared Value Solutions \(SVS\)](#). SVS is an affiliate of the Shared Value Initiative, a global community of practice among leading companies, civil society, and government organizations to drive adoption and implementation of shared value strategies. SVS helps create "shared value" - where a company's unique corporate assets, expertise, and market focus connect with communities' needs to enhance social, economic, and environmental well-being to create new value. Leah is working on multiple project with SVS, one of which is coordination of Groundswell, a high-profile, province wide groundwater innovation conference.

Sarah Hutchison**Graduated in 2002, Biophysical Environment and Development area**

As Business Owner and Educational Consultant for SPARK Global Learning, Sarah Hutchison works in the niche field of Global Education. SPARK creates the tools educators need to stretch the minds of today's young people and expand teaching and learning for global citizenship and rights respecting education in Canada. Sarah's experiences as a global education practitioner for both [UNICEF Canada](#) and [World Vision Canada](#), an Elementary and Secondary School Classroom Teacher, a student of International Development and Outdoor and Experiential Education, and an avid traveler combine to provide the backdrop for her current work. Once a proud resident of the GTA, Sarah now resides in a peaceful green-energy home in Eastern Ontario with her husband and their two beautiful boys.

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