

IDEV 4500
Alumni Panelist Biographies
October 14th, 2015

Lindsey America-Simms

Lindsey currently works as Communications Officer for the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in Sudan. She completed her BAH in 2009 in International Development with a concentration in 'Environment and Development' and a minor in Economics. Since graduating, she has worked in communications and government relations on a wide range of public health issues, including human rights, HIV, sustainable development, humanitarian emergency response and food and nutrition security. Before joining FAO, Lindsey was working with the World Health Organization in Geneva on food safety, Ebola response and mental health. She also holds a Master of Public Health (MPH) from the University of Waterloo, which she completed this June.

Kara Bonis

Kara Bonis graduated from the Political Economy and Administration stream of ID. She currently has returned to school at Conestoga College for an accounting diploma after working for two years in non-profit work within the City of Guelph. She continues to work part time and volunteer for a number of charitable organizations.

Leah Culver

Leah graduated from the ID program in 2010 with an emphasis in Rural and Agricultural Development. She then went on to complete an M.A. in Public Issues Anthropology and International Development. Currently she is Sociocultural Anthropologist and Human-Environment Consultant with Shared Value Solutions. Much of her current work involves conducting qualitative research projects, including Traditional Knowledge and Oral History projects with First Nation and Métis communities in Manitoba and Ontario, qualitative based program evaluation, socioeconomic impact assessments, Community Energy Planning, and GIS mapping of traditional knowledge.

Warren Dodd

Warren is a PhD Candidate studying Epidemiology and International Development Studies at the University of Guelph. His PhD research examines the connections between labour migration, health, food security, and rural community development with small-scale farming households in southern India and Honduras. Locally, he is a member of the Research and Knowledge Mobilization Committee for the Guelph and Wellington Task Force for Poverty Elimination. During his BA in ID (2011) he focused on Rural and Agricultural Development.

Melissa Fairey

Melissa graduated in May 2012 with an area of emphasis in gender and development. Since graduating, she has worked in Chile, Georgia and Indonesia on development projects. She currently works for Statistics Canada in research and hopes to return to complete a masters overseas next September.

Lindsay Morris

Lindsay completed her undergrad in the PEAC emphasis of ID in April 2012. Her time at Guelph helped her to realize that she could combine her two passions - dance and development. She is now in her final year of a 3-year joint program at York University: an MA in Dance and an MBA in Social Sector Management. She also worked for 3.5 years at a local charity, and now serves as a Director of the Board for two local organizations.