

## **IDS Alumni Panel Winter 2013**

### **Caroline Abbotts      Graduated in 2007, Political Economy and Administrative Change area**

Caroline Abbotts graduated from IDS at Guelph in 2007 and Humber's International Project Management Postgraduate program in 2009. After interning in Jordan with the Higher Council for the Affairs of Persons with Disabilities in 2010, Caroline returned to Canada and worked with various charities and NGOs. She is now working with cbm Canada <http://www.cbmcanada.org/>, a Christian International NGO that works towards breaking the cycle between poverty and disability.

### **Natasha Fernandez      Graduated in 2007, Political Economy and Administrative Change area and Spanish**

Since 2007, Natasha has facilitated more than ten language and community service youth trips in three different countries. Currently she is working as a Business Development Coordinator at Ingle International; supporting all types of schools across Canada by providing their international students with health insurance, emergency assistance, and travel information. Natasha is also currently pursuing a part-time certificate in Instructing Adults at George Brown College.

### **Melissa Fairey      Graduated in 2012, Gender and Development area**

Since graduation, Melissa worked in the country of Georgia for the Georgian Ministry of Education teaching English in a rural village school and starting two community programs: one arts film based project that included students and community members writing, acting and starring in their own films about issues such as gender roles, stereotypes and inequalities. The second was a volunteer run tutor program that took place in rural villages. Her future plans are to start working in March for the United Nations Development Program 'English Opens Doors' in Chile through the Chilean ministry of Education teaching and being a part of a community development project.

### **Lindsay Morris      Graduated in 2012, Political Economy and Administrative Change area**

Lindsay's time at Guelph helped her to realize that she could combine her two passions - dance and development. She is hoping to start a joint MA in Dance and MBA in Arts Administration in the Fall. Her research would focus on dance as a tool for community development. She has also started a 3-year contract with Guelph Dance (formerly the Guelph Contemporary Dance Festival) as the Office Manager and Volunteer Coordinator. Lindsay feels privileged to be working for a registered charity that brings dance - both performance and education - into the community.

### **Leah Culver      Graduated in 2010, Rural and Agricultural Development area**

Leah began her MA in Public Issues Anthropology and IDS studies at the University of Guelph in 2011. She is currently in her last semester of her MA and will be defending her thesis in the Spring time. Leah conducted her field work in Asuncion, Paraguay, with a focus on small-scale farmers and their ability to access market-space in an urban environment. She is interested in examining how small-scale farmers negotiate notions of agency as well as issues of vulnerability and marginality. Leah works within the theoretical perspective of political ecology and how small-scale farmers are working within an agricultural system that is embedded in policy and government regulation.

### **Maris Lush      Graduated in 2010, Gender and Development area, Women's Studies double major**

Since graduation, she has completed a Master's degree in Globalization Studies from McMaster University's Institute on Globalization and the Human Condition, and is currently working in Guelph as the Assistant Coordinator of the Guelph-Wellington Task Force for Poverty Elimination ([www.gwpoverty.ca](http://www.gwpoverty.ca)) in the Health Analytics department at Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health. She is a self-proclaimed nomad, ski coach and outdoor enthusiast who plans to pursue a career in international affairs or development, while possibly applying to law school in the near future.