

IDS Alumni Panel Winter 2015

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 has done two dance-related internships abroad, one in Botswana and one in Ghana. She is currently pursuing a joint MA in Dance and MBA in Nonprofit Management at York University. Her research focuses on dance as a tool for community development, specifically for reintegrating demobilized child soldiers. She is also finishing up a 3-year contract with the Guelph Dance Festival as the Office Manager and Volunteer Coordinator.

Katherine Laycock

Graduated in 2013, MA in Capacity Development and Extension with IDS

Katherine did her BA at Wilfrid Laurier University in Political Science and Global Studies. She continued onto the University of Guelph for her MSc in Capacity Development and Extension with an International Development Studies collaboration. In June 2013 she moved to Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on a CIDA internship with the Canadian Urban Institute as a Community Economic Development Officer, where she worked on an evaluation for a project that has just concluded after 3 years. After 6 months she returned back to Ontario and began a Sustainable Development Goals Internship at the United Nations University--Institute of Water, Environment, and Health for three months. This past September she began her Doctoral studies at the University of Waterloo in Planning. Her research focus is on Coastal Disaster Management, specifically related to climate change in Canada and Southeast Asia.

While working on her PhD she also volunteers with the Red Cross Disaster Management Team and held an additional contract position with the UNU-INWEH to continue the project she began in her Internship.

Maris Lush

Graduated in 2010, Double major in Gender and Development and Women Studies

Following Maris's experience at Guelph, she completed a Master's degree in Globalization Studies from McMaster University where she focused her research on the power of global capital and the evolution of corporate social responsibility as it relates to contemporary development practices. After graduation, Maris worked for two years as the Assistant Coordinator of the Guelph-Wellington Task Force for Poverty Elimination at both the United Way and Public Health. After gaining some experience with local community development in Ontario, Maris decided she wanted to gain some private sector experience while still maintaining a connection to the not for profit world. Based on that mindset, Maris made a significant career change and is now working as a Commercial Account Manager for the Royal Bank of Canada on their Not for Profit/Public Sector team in Toronto. She is enjoying the experience and the diverse learning opportunities the position brings. Her passions beyond the deconstruction of the public private sector divide include: coaching ski racing on weekends in Collingwood, volunteering with local human rights groups and organizations focused on affordable access to health and recreation, spending time with family and friends and planning her next outdoor adventure!

Sonia Preisler Graduated in 2011, Gender and Development area with a minor in Anthropology

Sonia is working on her MA in Dispute Resolution from the University of Victoria with an interest in access to justice and restorative justice practices. Last year, Sonia completed her co-op term with the Participatory Research Institute of Asia in New Delhi, India, working with the Gender Department. She is a board member of 10 Carden, coordinator of BCCR training for the Hillside Community Festival, and a program group facilitator with REVIVE at the Community Justice Initiative. She's passionate about restorative justice, inclusive community building, creative processes, as well as what it takes to build empathetic cities.

Julie Welch Graduated in 2014, Double major in Rural and Agricultural Development & Anthropology

While doing a double major was challenging, it allowed Julie to take courses in a range of departments and satisfied her need for an interdisciplinary learning approach. Travelling to India in 2012 for a semester abroad was a critical experience and encouraged her to engage with development with a strong critical lens. After the semester abroad, she centred her focus on Canadian agriculture and food security which led her to work with Guelph's Plant Agriculture Department and OMAFRA. She had the opportunity to work on a range of projects with the most memorable being an investigation of the relationship between honeybee deaths and neonicotinoids. The qualitative skills she had developed in IDS strengthened her ability to engage with farmers and bee keepers.

She is now in her first year of Guelph's MSc Rural Planning and Development program with the School of Environmental Design and Rural Development. She is researching collaboration and regional economic development in Ontario's agri-food sector. She is also working on an OMAFRA funded project with Dr. John Devlin and the University of Waterloo to Evaluate Regional Economic Development Initiatives (EREDI). This project is designed to identify factors that enhance regional economic development in Ontario and will contribute to developing OMAFRA's Provincial Regional Strategy.

Jocelyn Rivers Graduated in 2010, Gender and Development area with a minor in Anthropology

Jocelyn graduated in 2010 and entered the service and tourism industry. For over a year, Jocelyn worked and felt stifled; partnered with health issues, it was decided that her formal education was not complete and back to the University of Guelph she went. For three years, Jocelyn was part of the Capacity Development and Extension program along with the IDS graduate collaboration. Her background in gender and development lead her to studying sexual reproductive health and sustainability. After her graduation in 2014, she began volunteering for Bracelet of Hope developing a white paper/research report on development, HIV, and needs assessment. Extending from that, Jocelyn is now doing more research on HIV and network engagement; with the hope of pushing a PhD on that topic furthering practical, valuable and authentic research. In between reading and writing, Jocelyn can be found outside taking hikes with her dog Sprocket.