



Faces Behind the Figures:

Visions of Prosperity,
Progress & Human Potential
February 10–11, 2012

HDC The Fourth Annual Human Development Conference
at the University of Notre Dame



*Where do people earn the Per Capita Income?
More than one poor starving soul would like to know.
In our countries, numbers live better than people.
How many people prosper in times of prosperity?
How many people find their lives developed by development?*

— [Eduardo
Galeano](#)

"Those Little Numbers and People" from The Book of Embraces by Eduardo Galeano, translated by Cedric Belfrage with Mark Schafer. Copyright (c) 1989 by Eduardo Galeano. English translation copyright (c) 1991 by Cedric Belfrage. W.W. Norton & Company.

On behalf of the Ford Program at Notre Dame, the Center for Social Concerns, and SIT, a program of World Learning, thank you to all who attended the fourth annual Human Development Conference, "Faces Behind the Figures: Visions of Prosperity, Progress, and Human Potential." It was a successful two-day conference, with more than 250 students, faculty, and development experts in attendance from across the United States and beyond. Eighty-two students presented their own research on development-related topics conducted in over 35 countries. Panels addressed topics ranging from food security and agricultural development to post-conflict transformation and the effectiveness of foreign aid.

The conference began on Friday, February 10th with opening remarks from Fr. Bob Dowd, Director of the Ford Family Program, who spoke on the importance of utilizing the mind and heart in any development related work. Dr. Amitava Dutt, professor of economics and political science at Notre Dame, then voiced the importance of a multi-disciplinary and holistic approach to undergraduate research. The conference weekend also included talks from Johann Rousselot, a photojournalist who has made major contributions to Amnesty International's Dignité Project, and this year's keynote speaker, Mr. Mark Wexler, co-founder and executive director of Not For Sale.

The Ford Program would also like to thank the visiting delegation of faculty and students from Uganda Martyrs University, Ford's partner in on-site development work in Uganda, as well as faculty from Catholic University of Eastern Africa, Ford's partner in Kenya. We are grateful for their participation in this annual conference!



Please stay tuned for next year's conference. The call for papers will be sent out in Fall 2012. We look forward to seeing you next February!



Ford



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Mark Wexler, Keynote Speaker

Mark Wexler is the co-founder and executive director of Not For Sale, a movement committed to the abolition of modern day slavery. Before this endeavor, Mr. Wexler worked in Durban, South Africa with Umthombo, a non-profit organization aiming to empower former street children through advocacy. In 2006, the Minnesota native helped to found Not For Sale. He now oversees program directors at NFS and engages outside institutions in strategic partnerships with the organization. Mr. Wexler is also a partner in the Right Reality Fund, which invests at the intersection of for-profit and non-profit sectors.

His work with Not For Sale has brought Mr. Wexler to all corners of the globe. Recent "tweets" trace his visits to Romania, Thailand, London, South Korea, Cambodia and Uganda. We are thrilled that South Bend, Indiana has joined the ranks and welcome Mr. Wexler to the University of Notre Dame and this fourth annual Human Development Conference.



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[Download pdf version here.](#)

Conference Schedule

Subject to change

*All events to take place in the **Hesburgh Center for International Studies** unless stated otherwise*

Friday

11:00 am - Presenter Registration

1:30 pm - Open Registration

2:30 pm - Opening Remarks

3:15pm - Panel Session 1

Panel A – *Healthcare: The System and the Individual* (Hesburgh Center Auditorium)

A country's health care system is best examined through its impact on the individual. These panelists investigate the successes and failures of healthcare in Uganda and India through various case studies. Their findings will shed light on the potential of developing healthcare infrastructures to foster positive change.

Moderated by **Edwin Michael** (Professor of Biological Sciences, University of Notre Dame)

Hanna Christi O'Brien (University of Notre Dame) – *Quality of Life for the Sick and Dying: Challenges in Ugandan Palliative Care and its Relation to Disease-Modifying Treatments*

Hannah Sparks (Denison University; SIT India) – *Impediments to Eradicating Malnutrition Among Adolescent Females in Rural India*

Krystal Brady (University of Notre Dame; SIT Uganda) – *Maternal Healthcare Barriers in Urban and Rural Uganda*

Panel B – *Sacrificing Sustainability: The Environmental Costs of Development* (Hesburgh Center C102)

The popular notion of "development" includes harnessing the resources of an environment and using them to benefit its residents. Often, though, the line between progress and exploitation becomes blurred. This panel looks at the detrimental effects of conventional "development" and presents safeguards for the future.

Moderated by **Sean O'Brien** (Assistant Director, Center for Civil and Human Rights; Assistant Professor of Law, University of Notre Dame)

Caitlin Conyers (BPP College University of Professional Studies [England], Graduate Student; SIT Brazil) – *Perspectives of Development in the Chapada do Apodi, Ceará: Impacts of Agribusiness and Proposals for the Future*

Jillian Howell (Colby College; SIT Ecuador) – *The Face of Exploitation: A Study of the Mining Industry in Southern Ecuador*

Karin Bucht (Oregon State University; SIT Madagascar) – *Local Viewpoints on Conservation & Development, at Malio, Andohahela National Park, Madagascar*

Panel C – *Power Disparities* (Hesburgh Center C103)

Social hierarchy is one of the defining characteristics of a nation. This panel examines the power structures of various facets of society, including economics and agriculture, and illustrates their impact on the overall population.

Moderated by **Carolyn Nordstrom** (Professor of Anthropology, University of Notre Dame)

Adam Sawyer (Wheaton College) – *That Price is Not Right: Justiprecio and Property Governance in Urban Honduras*

Charlotte Mailly (Smith College; SIT Kenya) – *W[h]ater You Afraid Of? Fears, Myths and Barriers to Swahili Aquatic Culture*

Daniel Owens (Hope College) – *The Hybridization of Peacekeeping: The UN Mission to Liberia Revisited*

Peter Woo (University of Notre Dame) – *Hidden Power Disparities in Melghat, India: The Structural Causes of Indebtedness and its Social Implications on Socioeconomic Development*

Panel D – IT Innovations: Potential for Positive Change (Hesburgh Center C104/105)

Ugandan schoolchildren are writing blogs as Indian activists gain support through Twitter. Recent innovations in technology and social media have taken root in developing nations, and the implications are vast. From education to politics to healthcare, technology offers novel solutions to long-standing problems.

Moderated by **Greg Crawford** (Dean of the College of Science, University of Notre Dame)

Edward Linczer (University of Notre Dame) – *Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in Rural Ugandan Classrooms: Opportunities and Challenges*

Elizabeth "Liz" Bajema (Saint Mary's College) and **Meghann Mouratides** (Saint Mary's College) – *Counterfeit Drug Detection through Paper Analytical Devices (PADs)*

Emily Kwong (Columbia University; SIT South Africa) – *Endangered Heritage and Emergent Ogogo: A Case Study of the "Ulwazi Programme"*

Lauren Reese (Georgetown University; SIT India) – *People's Power 2.0: The Use of Web Technologies for Social Change in India*

5:00pm - Panel Session 2

Panel A – Youth Development and Empowerment (Hesburgh Center Auditorium)

A child's personal growth depends upon education, a healthy home environment, good role models, extracurricular activities, and countless other factors often unavailable to children growing up in impoverished and war-ravaged countries. This panel examines the creative ways in which various support systems for youth development can be implemented amidst such country challenges.

Moderated by **Catherine Bolten** (Assistant Professor of Anthropology and Peace Studies, University of Notre Dame)

Ryan Lion (University of Notre Dame) – *The Talibés: The Neglected Children of Sénégal*

Alexander Coccia (University of Notre Dame) – *Fencing in Uganda: Sport as a Fundamental Tool in a Child's Development*

Alison Thompson (George Washington University; SIT Kenya) – *Aspirations, Options, and Accessibility: A Study of the Opportunities for Education and Employment for Youth at Kakuma Refugee Camp*

Panel B – Gendered Development (Hesburgh Center C102)

This panel explores the challenges facing developing nations through discrepancies based on the individual's gender. Men and women share many of the same struggles, but their experiences differ vastly based on cultural understanding of gender roles. In particular, panelists will explore issues of women's political and social rights in countries with histories of inequality.

Moderated by **Alicia Decker** (Assistant Professor of History, Purdue University)

Anna Chang (Tulane University; SIT Jordan) – *The Challenges of Balancing Careers and Family Life Facing University Women in Jordan*

Katherine Warren (Harvard University) – *Violence Against Women with Disabilities in Bangladesh: Lessons from Lawyers*

Paromita Sen (DePauw University; SIT Jordan) – *Gendered Legality: Studying Women Within the Legal Frameworks of Urf and Shari'a Law*

Tiffany Jolley (University of Alabama at Birmingham; SIT Rwanda) – *Rwanda: The Gender of Genocide and Development*

Panel C – Healing the Wounds of War (Hesburgh Center C103)

War in Rwanda and Uganda has left deep mental and physical wounds amongst its victims. These panelists focus on the healing power of unconventional therapy techniques, including dance and storytelling, to alleviate PTSD and other war-related suffering.

Moderated by **Charlotte Karungi Mafumbo** (Academic Director, SIT Uganda: Development Studies)

April Dejarlais (Macalester College; SIT Rwanda) – *Sharing Sorrow: An Exploration of Trauma Therapy Methods for Rwandan Women Affected by the 1994 Genocide and for Future Post-Conflict Use*

Margaret Brunk (Macalester College; SIT Rwanda) – *"The Half-Truth Doesn't Heal": Survivor*

Testimony and the Construction of Personal and National Narrative in Post-Genocide Rwanda
Mary Simms (Wake Forest University; SIT Uganda) – *Dancing in the Minefields: The Effects of Traditional Acholi Dance and Contemporary Breakdancing in the Lives of War-Affected Youth in Northern Uganda*

Panel D – *Food Security and Rural Development* (Hesburgh Center C104/105)

Lack of a secure food supply is one of the largest issues facing impoverished nations. These panelists all focus on the same principle: food security stems from a country's ability to produce and maintain its own supply. Formerly overlooked minority groups possess the greatest potential to positively impact food supply. From beekeepers in rural Uganda to female farmers in Cameroon, these presentations reveal unexpected solutions to the crucial issue of food security.

Moderated by **Jess Lowenberg-DeBoer** (Associate Dean and Director of International Programs in Agriculture (IPIA), Purdue University)

Estellina Namutebi (Uganda Martyrs University) – *Taming Nature for Human Survival: Beekeeping and Human Development in Kyamuhunga, Uganda*

Katherine Finnegan (University of Southern California; SIT Nicaragua) – *Sustainability and Self-management in Food Security Programs in Nicaragua*

Laurel Chen (University of Vermont; SIT Cameroon) – *Freudian Common Initiative Groups: The Manifest Economic and Latent Social Character and Advantages of Female Farmers' Common Initiative Groups*

6:30 pm - Casual Dinner

7:00 pm - Remarks by Johann Rousselot on the Dignité Project

8:00 pm - Screening of *The Struggle Garden*, a Documentary by Jack Davis

Saturday

9:30 am - Coffee and Light Breakfast

10:30am - Panel Session 3

Panel A – *Aiding the Uprooted: Rebuilding Displaced Communities* (Hesburgh Center Auditorium)

Natural disasters, wars, and economic crises lead to mass displacement of populations within developing countries. Without ever leaving their nation of birth, these displaced persons become refugees. This panel seeks to understand the causes of displacement and the political and social inequality that augments them.

Moderated by **Patience Kabamba** (Kellogg Institute Visiting Fellow, University of Notre Dame)

Clair Weatherby (Brandeis University; SIT Bolivia) – *No Title: Informal Settlements in the Tamborada*
Viga Emmanuel (Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU); Graduate Student; SIT Uganda) – *Community Vulnerability and Resilience in a Post Conflict Situation: The Case of Acholi Sub-region in Uganda*

Medgine Laguerre (State University of Haiti) – *Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) and Humanitarian Aid in Haiti: An Analysis of the Relationship of Survival Between Humanitarian Organizations and IDPs After the Earthquake*

Panel B – *Business and Commerce in the Developing World: Innovative Practices in Unexpected Places* (Hesburgh Center C102)

When we think of business, we often imagine companies rather than people, the abstract idea rather than the concrete reality. This panel will examine business at the level of the individual, from tea farmers to artisans to internal lending communities. Panelists will emphasize the necessity of successful business on a small scale in order to make improvements in a larger context. Global economics begin with a single handshake.

Moderated by **David Murphy** (Associate Dean for Entrepreneurship, Colleges of Science and Engineering; Director, ESTEEM Program, University of Notre Dame)

Sally Dexter (Wheaton College, MA; SIT India) – *Beyond Economic Empowerment: The Positive Social Externalities of St. Mary's Mahila Shikshan Kendra*

Dominic Cimino (University of Notre Dame) – *SILC and NABTA Operations in Nkozi, Uganda*

Namutebi Bridget (Uganda Martyrs University) – *The Role Played by Microfinance Institutions in Poverty Alleviation in the Rural Areas of Uganda*

Karen Gardner (Bard College; SIT Nepal) – *Cost of the Connoisseur's Cup: Power Dynamics in a Tea Factory's Conversion to Organic Production*

Panel C – *Sustainable Engineering and Environmental Practice* (Hesburgh Center C103)

This panel offers sustainable plans for the physical structures of developing nations. In particular, the

Haiti earthquake provides a platform for exploring new methods of construction and architecture. Along with a study of the potential use of bamboo in Ugandan home construction, these presentations emphasize the importance of making engineering sustainable by anchoring it in the resources of the country.

Moderated by **Tracy Kijewski-Correa** (Associate Professor of Civil Engineering, University of Notre Dame)

Ryan Kavanagh (University of Notre Dame), **Jacqueline Gilhooly** (University of Notre Dame), and **Benjamin Keller** (University of Notre Dame) – *Achieving a Sustainable Framework for Affordable Housing in Haiti: A Community-Driven Solution*

Fred Ijjo (Uganda Martyrs University) – *The Physical and Mechanical Properties of Little Known Bamboo Species: *Oxytenanthera Abyssinica* and How the Knowledge Could Be Utilised for Social Development in Rural Uganda*

Panel D – *The Identity Struggle: Government, Ethnicity, and Self* (Hesburgh C104/105)

How does the individual identify and express him- or herself in the context of a society? What role does a single citizen play in the government's identity? These panelists explore various aspects of individual cultural identity, from sign language in Honduras to ethnic conflict in Uganda to sex worker rights in the Netherlands. We will learn how cultural minorities respond to and influence the identities of the societies to which they belong.

Moderated by **Victor Tricot** (Academic Director, SIT Chile: Social, Economic, and Political Transformation)

Elizabeth Scheib (Fordham University; SIT Netherlands) – *Love for Sale: How Working Conditions Influence the Dramaturgical Presentation of Self for Sex Workers in Amsterdam*

Peter Cahill (University of Pittsburgh) – *Usted es Haragán Pero Vos Sos Lazy: Initialization in Honduran Sign Language*

Robert W. Schwieder (University of Virginia; SIT Uganda) – *A Country Divided: The Power of Ethnicity in the Ugandan Political Sector*

Varvara Lokteva (American University of Central Asia [Kyrgyzstan]) – *The Role of Kyrgyz Government Mediation in Inter-Ethnic Conflicts: Opinion of Non-Kyrgyz Citizens*

12:00 pm - Lunch

1:00pm - Poster Presentations (Hesburgh Center Auditorium)

Brianna Kunycky (University of Notre Dame) – *Palliative Care in Uganda*

Katherine Filaseta (Washington University in Saint Louis; SIT India) – *Education to Create a Nation: The Role of Education in Creating and Combating Communal Violence in Ahmedabad, Gujarat*

Katie Oberwager (University of Pennsylvania; SIT Mexico) – *Seeds and the City: Urban Agriculture in Oaxaca de Juárez as a Contribution to Food Sovereignty*

Mary Bevilacqua (Saint Mary's College) – *PADs Project: Antibiotics*

Meghan Henshall (Kenyon College; SIT Nepal) – *Giving Life, Stopping Death: Maternal Health Care Personnel in Nepal's Western Region*

Nikola-Maria K Komailevuka (University of Hawai'i at Manoa) – *The Withdrawal of EU Sugar Protocols from Fiji: The View from Below*

Rachel Elzinga (Hope College; SIT Cameroon) – *Counting Cailloux, Multiplying Mambos: An Analysis of Mathematics Education in Cameroonian Primary Schools*

Samantha Zucker (Carnegie Mellon University; SIT Morocco) – *A Way Out: Visual Narratives of Migrants in Morocco*

Tasha Russman (Scripps College; SIT Kenya) – *The Sociopolitical Control Scale across Urban Kenya*

Tracey Knott (Oberlin College; SIT Morocco) – *The Women Writers of Rabat: Exploring the Status of Moroccan Women through Literary Analysis*

2:30pm - Panel Session 4

Panel A – *Faces Behind the Figures: Visuals of Development* (Hesburgh Auditorium)

These multimedia presentations take us into the heart of developing nations by giving us a first-hand glimpse of the most pressing issues. Through photographs and graphics, we will share the experiences of individuals around the world struggling for equal rights and better lives.

Moderated by **Robert Sedlack** (Associate Professor of Graphic Design, University of Notre Dame)

Hannah Burke (University of Notre Dame) and Jeffrey Ulrich (University of Notre Dame) – *A Personal Look at Slavery and Education Issues in Developing Nations*

Sandhira Wijayarathne (Johns Hopkins University; SIT Kenya) – *Faces of Angels: Photography as a Fundraising Tool for AIDS-affected Children in the Kibera Slums*

Patrick McCormick (University of Notre Dame) and Graham Thomas (University of Notre Dame) – *South Africa Xenophobia Project*

Lisa Hoeynck (University of Notre Dame) and Brandon Keelean (University of Notre Dame) – *Xenophobia Project Graphic Design Campaign*

Panel B – *Educating Youth in a Changing World* (Hesburgh Center C102)

In countries affected by war and poverty, education is more than the transfer of knowledge: it is an instrument of validation for the child. These panelists examine the importance of formal education in the areas of academics, sex, and traditional culture in the formation of the complete individual.

Moderated by **Louis Berends** (University Relations Manager, Midwest Region, SIT Study Abroad)

Stephen Strom (Pacific Lutheran University; SIT Uganda) – *The Development of Education for War-Affected Children: The Challenges and Possible Solutions in Post- Conflict Society*

Abigail Jones (Scripps College; SIT Chile) – *Norche, Newenche, Kùmeche and Kimche: The Role of Intercultural Education and Self-esteem in the Liceo Intercultural Técnico Profesional*

Amee Wurzburg (Barnard College; SIT Kenya) – *Nairobi Youth Sexual Culture: Gaining Insight on Youth Understandings of Sexuality Through Formal Sexual Health Education and Exposure to Pornography*

Panel C – *Tourism and Volunteering: Income and Impacts* (Hesburgh Center C103)

Tourists and volunteers alike flock to developing nations, the former to enjoy beautiful scenery and new cultures, the latter to offer their time and talents. Even the most idealistic volunteer, however, soon learns to face reality: no matter the goodness of the intentions behind aid, we must remain aware of its potential negative consequences. These panelists study the ways in which visitors both benefit their host countries and present new, unexpected problems.

Moderated by **Rahul Oka** (Assistant Professor of Anthropology, University of Notre Dame)

Elena Robertson (Occidental College) – *Cultural Sustainability and the Short-Term Volunteer Teaching Industry*

Nurganym Agzamova (Eurasian National University [Republic of Kazakhstan]) – *Establishment of the Institute of Volunteerism in Kazakhstan as a Tool for Educating Future Leaders*

Margaux Fisher (Wheaton College; SIT China) – *Tourism's Impact on Lijiang's Naxi Community: Identity, Gender, and Inequality*

Tawny Saez (University of New Hampshire; SIT Brazil) – *Anã Case Study: Analyzing the Transformation of Social and Economic Systems within a Community-Based Ecotourism Project*

Panel D – *Technology and Infrastructure* (Hesburgh Center C104/105)

Just as technology has great potential in a developing nation's social framework, so also does it offer solutions for issues of physical infrastructure. Panelists examine the promising impact of water purification systems, sustainable electricity sources, and deployable bridges in strengthening a country's defense against the destruction posed by natural and man-made disasters.

Moderated by **Steve Silliman** (Professor of Civil Engineering, University of Notre Dame)

Brittani Russell (University of Notre Dame, Graduate Student) – *Review of Deployable Bridges for Disaster Relief Applications in Developing Countries*

Lindsay Gilbertson (University of Nevada, Reno, Graduate Student) – *Using Vegetation Indices from MODIS to Estimate Evapotranspiration for the Godomey Well Field in Benin, West Africa*

Patrick Murphy (George Washington University, Graduate Student) – *Affordable Electricity in the Developing World through Solar Hybrid Microgrids: A Case Study in Tshumbe, Congo*

4:15pm - Panel Session 5

Panel A – *Challenges in Global Health: Disease Control and Prevention* (Hesburgh Center Auditorium)

This panel, comprised of graduate students in the Eck Institute's Masters of Science in Global Health Program at the University of Notre Dame, examines the spread of preventable disease in impoverished areas, identifies its causes, and presents possible solutions. In addition to the medical side of the issue, panelists will explore its ties to social and economic problems, offering unique suggestions for the alleviation of "diseases of the poor."

Moderated by **Katherine Taylor** (Director of Operations, Eck Institute for Global Health; Research Professor of Biological Sciences, University of Notre Dame)

Zoë Cross (University of Notre Dame, Graduate Student) – *Polyparasitism and Helminth Infection Dynamics, Morbidity and Control*

Lindsey A. McAlarnen (University of Notre Dame, Graduate Student) – *Freedom of the Press and Public Health Infrastructure Improve Surveillance Efforts of Globally Emerging Infectious Diseases*

Annette Marie Ruth (University of Notre Dame, Graduate Student) – *Preventing Future Cholera Outbreaks: Integrating Sociology, Ecology, and Economics*

Panel B – *Logistical and Philosophical Perspectives on Foreign Aid* (Hesburgh Center C102)

Foreign aid as an ideal differs vastly from its actual implementation. Through case studies in Uganda, the Philippines, Nicaragua, and Kenya, this panel seeks to understand the logistical-philosophical gap. By recognizing the practical limits of our ideas, we seek to improve their effectiveness.

Moderated by Larissa Fast (Assistant Professor of Sociology and Conflict Resolution, University of Notre Dame)

Sarah Freeman (Northwestern University) – *The "Post-Conflict" Problem: Transitional Failures from Emergency Relief to Sustainable Development for Internally Displaced Persons and the Need for Solutions*

James Adams (University of Notre Dame, Graduate Student) – *The Unintended Consequences of Development*

Sarah Larsson (Yale University; SIT Kenya) – *Can Development be Successful and Globalized? Steps Towards Integrating Local and International Development Frameworks in W. Kenya*

Molly Dunton (The George Washington University; SIT Nicaragua) – *The Incompatibility of Dependence and Development: A Critical Analysis of International Development Efforts in the Nicaraguan Context*

Panel C – *Without a Country: African Refugee Issues* (Hesburgh Center C103)

These panelists examine the plight of African refugees and asylum-seekers from the national and international perspective. They examine the role of African governments, both as the instigators of strife and as asylums for refugees from neighboring countries. Finally, they take into account the responsibility of the international community, especially the UN, in solving this issue.

Moderated by **Jaimie Bleck** (Ford Family Assistant Professor of Political Science, University of Notre Dame)

Brittany Grabel (Kenyon College) – *The Negation of a Man: Asylum's Capacity to Protect the Rights of Mauritanian Refugees*

Whitney Skippings (Spelman College; SIT Uganda/Rwanda) – *Uganda's Facilitation of Peace in the Great Lakes Region*

Elizabeth Andrews (University of Notre Dame; SIT Tunisia) – *The Politics of Repatriation: How It Happens, How It Doesn't Happen, and What It Means To Be a Man Without a Country*

Panel D – *Environmental and Social Sustainability* (C104/105)

Environmental sustainability is inextricably linked to the social policies that enforce it. This panel explores not only the sustainability practices of various populations, but also the effect of these policies on the people who must follow them. Through these presentations, we will learn that environmental stewardship is only as strong as the society's ability to create inclusive, safe, and just sustainability policies.

Moderated by **Owuor Bethwell Onyango** (Lecturer in Natural Sciences, Catholic University of Eastern Africa [Kenya])

Rebecca Slotkin (Washington University in Saint Louis; SIT Madagascar) – *Plants, People, and Partnership in Madagascar: How Pharmaceutical Companies and Bioprospecting Ventures Must and May Positively Benefit the Communities Whose Resources They Use*

Dhia'a Al-dean Nagib Al-thari (Alnasser College [Yemen]; SIT Yemen) – *The Severe Water Depleting in Yemen and Ways to Increase the Share Per Capita*

6:30 pm - Dinner with Keynote Address by Mark Wexler

South Dining Hall, east side



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Committee Bios

Margaret Adams, Faculty Liaison

Margaret is a senior from Joplin, Missouri studying History and Peace Studies. Her interest in human development emerged from a commitment to social justice and concern for creating sustainable peace. She was blessed to have traveled to Ghana and the Balkan region during her time at Notre Dame, and hopes to return to an international setting during her post-graduation exploration.

Katie Buetow, Abstract Committee

Katie is a senior Program of Liberal Studies and Music double major. She spent last summer working with the Ford Program in Uganda, where she taught high-school English. She feels blessed to have had so many wonderful experiences abroad, and she is excited to continue learning and sharing during the Human Development Conference.

Kelly Colas, Logistics

Kelly is a senior Anthropology and Pre-Medical studies major from Washington, D.C. She has been involved with projects regarding women's reproductive health in Mexico and hopes to continue working on issues of women's and children's health in an international context.

Rosie Conover, Presenter Liaison

Rosabelle is a senior Science Pre-Professional Studies major with minors in Theology and Peace Studies. She's proud to be from Fort Worth, Texas, but has spent little time there thanks to Notre Dame's funding of her travels to El Salvador, Chile, the Philippines, and Eastern Europe. She's passionate about putting theology into action and strives to see people as people regardless of language, skin color, background, or socioeconomic status.

Jared Coleman-Stark, Photo Contest Chair

Jared is a senior Pre-Professional Studies major from Kekaha, Hawaii. His area of interest is global health, and he spent a summer in East Africa where he completed a seminar on Peace and Conflict Studies and worked at an orphanage for children who have lost their parents to HIV/AIDS.

Noelle Hilmer, Logistics Chair

Noelle Hilmer is a graduate student in the Masters of Science in Global Health Program. As an undergraduate, she spent time working in Lima, Peru, studying abroad in Santiago, Chile, and teaching at/falling in love with the Farm of the Child in Trujillo, Honduras. She loves working with people, especially kids, and is extremely interested in how healthcare and education can help combat poverty.

Lisa Hoeynck, Graphic Designer

Lisa is a senior Graphic Design and Marketing double major from St. Louis, Missouri. She has witnessed what it means to live humbly and love fully through her time spent in a small, developing village in Chinandega, Nicaragua.

Kristen Kelly, Logistics

Kristen is a junior Anthropology major and International Development Studies minor from Chicago, Illinois. She has performed oral historical and ethnographic research related to agricultural development projects in Nnindye, Uganda and plans to return to Africa to continue research soon. She is passionate about international development issues, especially within the realm of education, and hopes to pursue a career in the field someday.

Abbie Naus, Publicist

Abbie Naus is a junior Biology major and International Development Studies minor from Shreveport, Louisiana. She spent last summer in Ghana working in local clinics and teaching English for nine weeks. She plans to conduct research next summer regarding her interest in global health.

Amy Klopfenstein, Secretary

Amy is a sophomore Pre-Medical Studies and Anthropology major from Colorado Springs, Colorado. She has a strong passion for social justice and one day hopes to one day be involved in international development.

Olivia Redline, Logistics

Libby is a senior Science Pre-Professional and Spanish double major from Coeur d'Alene, Idaho. She became interested in human development after a summer of working in public health education in Oaxaca, Mexico.

Hannah Reiser, Publicist

Hannah is a junior Science Pre-Professional major with a minor in International Development Studies from Central Illinois. Through internships at USAID and Save the Children UK, she has become passionate about work to improve maternal, infant and child health and plans to focus her summer 2012 research on this topic.

Katie Rose, Sustained Dialogue

Katie Rose is a junior Economics and Political Science double major with a minor in International Development Studies from Sugar Land, Texas. She spent the summer after her freshman year working with the Ford Program in Nnindye, Uganda, looking at water development issues. Her research interests include post-conflict reconstruction and post-conflict justice systems.

Kara Ryan, Cochair

Kara Ryan is a junior Science Pre-Professional major with minors in International Development Studies and Anthropology. Her international research interests lie in socioeconomic and cultural influences on health-related behaviors, specifically as they relate to maternal healthcare. Kara hopes to attend medical school after obtaining her master's degree in Global Health from the Eck Institute at Notre Dame.

Curtis Tripp, Abstract Committee Chair

Curtis is a senior Environmental Science and Anthropology double major from Waterford, Connecticut. He is drawn to international development by his interest in human rights and social justice and where they intersect with his environmental concerns about international conservation and global sustainability. He has done research with Australian aboriginals on the social impacts of conservation, and has worked for the Ford Family Program in Human Development Studies and Solidarity at its field site in Nnindye, Uganda.

John Villecco, Editor/Publicist

John is a senior Anthropology and Program of Liberal Studies double major from Broomfield, Colorado. Since entering Notre Dame he has sought activities centered around social justice. His interest in international development blossomed during two fruitful research stints in Uganda, and he intends to begin graduate study in Anthropology in the fall.

Gail Weaver, Graduate Student Liaison

Gail is a graduate student in the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry at Notre Dame. She has previously published work describing a novel, low-tech method for quantifying medication used to prevent *lymphatic filariasis* in Haiti. Her current work involves the development of inexpensive field tests using whole-cell biosensors for environmental and pharmacological applications in developing countries.

Greg Woods, Cochair

Greg is a senior Arts and Letters Pre-Professional and Sociology major from the suburbs of Philadelphia. Over the past two years, Greg has spent time studying and working in El Salvador and Uganda, primarily in the areas of nutrition, public health, and prison health care. Who knows what will come next, but he is incredibly blessed to have met the individuals he did while abroad.

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