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!