



MDP Program Newsletter

Issue 6 | Fall 2014



UF Center for
Latin American Studies
UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA

 Center for
AFRICAN STUDIES
at the University of Florida

Contents:

Director's Note.....	1-2
Program News.....	3-7
Field Practicums.....	8
Faculty Spotlight.....	9
Alumni Updates.....	10
New Book.....	12

*Integrating
knowledge and
skills to prepare a
new generation of
development
practitioners*



Director's Note

Editors:

Elizabeth Poulsen, MDP Graduate Assistant
Andy Noss, MDP Program Coordinator



Glenn Galloway
MDP Program Director

Once again, it is with great pleasure that I introduce this newsletter that provides you with an update on the University of Florida, Master of Sustainable Development Practice (MDP) Program. As you will appreciate in the pages that follow, it has been an exciting period for the program involving the collective energy of students, faculty, MDP alumni, visiting scholars and practitioners, and partner organizations in UF and other parts of the world.

The Global Association of the MDP Program continues to grow and evolve. At present, 32 academic institutions in 27 countries take part in the MDP program, either as affiliates or full partner institutions. In July 2014, Dr. Philip Williams, Director of the Center of Latin American Studies, and I travelled to Queensland, Australia to take part in the Sixth Annual MDP Summit in James Cook University. There we had the opportunity to meet with representatives from other Global Association members, including academic institutions that are currently in the process of developing MDP programs, including Tongji University, China; Yonsei University, Korea; University of Jordan, Jordan; Instituto Superior de Engenharia de Lisboa, Portugal; and Monash University, Australia. In this summit, MDP students of James Cook University played a key role

in hosting the event, beginning with a welcoming dinner under the stars the first night in Cairns and later with creative presentations on their field work, carried out primarily in Indonesia.

One important aspiration shared by members of the Global Association of the MDP Program is to create opportunities for greater cooperation and exchanges among students and faculty across the network. In this newsletter, Dr. Renata Serra, Graduate Coordinator of the UF MDP Program, reports on a pioneering, collaborative initiative involving UF and two other MDP Global Association members: Sciences Po (Paris, France), and University Cheikh Anta Diop (Dakar, Senegal). Through this initiative participating students are provided with opportunities to meet and deliberate on issues related to demography and social change in the African Sahel, first at UF (September 2014) and later at Sciences Po and Cheikh Anta Diop (2015). In addition to Dr. Serra, Dr. Sarah McKune (UF, Public Health), Prof. Fiona McLaughlin (UF, Departments of Linguistics; and Languages, Literature and Culture), and other visiting scholars engaged with the students during workshops and lectures (see page 6 for a thorough overview of this program).

As part of the international governance structure of the MDP Global Association, efforts are also being made to consolidate the Students and Alumni Advisory Council (SAAC). Each university partner is invited to be represented by one 1st year student, one 2nd year representative and an alumnus. In the case of UF, Ben Christ (1st year), Liz Poulsen (2nd year) and Seth Marsala-Bell (UF-MDP alumnus) are participating in the SAAC; Seth was recently named to the Leadership Committee. Expectations are high that SAAC will unleash the creativity and dynamism of MDP students and alumni to strengthen the overall program and capitalize on lessons learned, promising approaches and experiences from around the world. No doubt special attention will be focused on enhancing employment opportunities for MDP alumni over time (see pages 10 and 11 for selected alumni updates).

The Development Practitioner Seminars continue to offer invaluable opportunities to MDP students and students from other programs to engage with and learn from experienced international development practitioners. During the fall semester 2014, students participated in a career workshop and in a session on the complex phenomenon of “land-grabbing” in eastern African countries, which also affects countries in other parts of the world. Finally, UF alum Cary Farley gave a seminar with the provocative title, “Can development really be sustainable” (see page 5). Other exciting seminars are already being planned for the spring semester. I would like to encourage each of you who receive announcements of these seminars through the MDP Listserv to feel welcome to attend.

During summer 2014, the MDP Coordinator, Ms. Cindy Tarter was selected to become Assistant Director of the Undergraduate Academic Programs of UF. The UF-MDP program was very fortunate to have had Cindy as Coordinator for approximately 2.5 years and benefited greatly from her dedication and professionalism. Here, I want to wish her the greatest success in her position in UF’s International Center. Soon after Cindy’s departure, Dr. Andrew Noss (Andy) was selected through a competitive process to assume the MDP Coordinator position. Andy brings a lot of experience in development work and enthusiasm to his new position. He has also worked closely with students for many years while leading conservation and development initiatives. So, we are quite pleased that Andy has joined the UF-MDP Program (see page 3 for an interview with him).

An exciting process underway in UF is the integration of new, highly experienced faculty members. In this newsletter, we have included an interview with Dr. Susan Paulson who has joined the Center for Latin American Studies (see page 8). She came to UF from Lund University in Sweden and has worked in development initiatives throughout Latin America and elsewhere. She will be co-teaching the spring, core MDP course “Design and methods for sustainable development practice” and will offer “Power and environment: Political ecology perspectives on conservation and development”. We are grateful that Susan has joined us and excited to see how she is already enriching the curriculum available to our students.

I would like to express my deep appreciation to the faculty members (core and affiliates) who have contributed to the MDP Program in the past year. Your support is what makes this program the enriching experience it is for our students. I would also like to acknowledge the vital support the program has received from Center of Latin American Studies, the Center for African Studies, the International Center, and the Tropical Conservation and Development Certificate Program. Cross-departmental involvement of faculty in the regional centers has greatly strengthened and facilitated the UF-MDP program.

Many thanks also to our graduate assistant, MDP student Elizabeth Poulsen, who again took leadership in the development of this newsletter and who has provided enthusiastic support for many activities carried out by the program.

Let me finish by wishing all our readers a happy and successful 2015. We look forward to another exciting year, thanks to your generous support and collaboration.

+ MDP Program Coordinator: Andy Noss



This semester, the MDP program welcomed Dr. Andy Noss as the new program coordinator. Andy has been involved in several international development and conservation initiatives in Central Africa and South America over the last couple decades, and returned to Gainesville in early 2012. We posed a few questions to Andy

regarding these experiences and his role as program coordinator.

What are some of the most meaningful international development initiatives that you have been involved in in the past, and why were they meaningful to you?

Supporting several of Ecuador's lowland indigenous peoples—especially the Waorani, Cofán, Secoya, Kichwa, Sápara, Awá—in managing their territories. The most exciting and rewarding times were traveling together—by small plane, or boat, or truck, or foot—to visit communities in the Amazon and Chocó (yes, into areas touched by guerrillas in southern Colombia, and by “peoples in voluntary isolation” in Ecuador), glimpsing people's lives, sharing their homes and their food (yes, masticated chicha and monkey soup).

USAID had supported lowland indigenous territorial organizations for at least 10 years previously, and my USAID counterparts had been with USAID the entire time. They therefore knew personally many of the leaders and technical staff of these organizations, having frequently visited offices and communities. USAID representatives introduced me to the leaders of the indigenous organizations with whom we developed sub-grant agreements, and continued to participate in field visits.

Our project was comprehensively if not loftily titled “Integrated Management of Indigenous Lands,” as recommended by one of the indigenous partners, avoiding the term “conservation” used in previous periods as too restrictive. Sub-grant agreements were not developed until after the funds were granted by USAID, during a several month planning period. Each organization had a clear agenda—from priorities for support through to

formal strategic plans—and in joint meetings we identified pieces of their respective agendas that USAID could support, as well as complementary resources provided by other supporters. Therefore we could contribute to ongoing long-term institutional processes rather than limiting ourselves to discrete short-term interventions.

Postscript: USAID withdrew from Ecuador in 2014, unable to agree on an overall memorandum of understanding with the government of Ecuador.

What specific areas within the development field are you passionate about, and why?

Promoting wildlife and forest conservation with development in Central Africa and South America. Working with local communities that have title or use rights to land and wildlife, within and around protected areas. Overall, helping people to help themselves, because conservation and development must be local, achieved by those with rights over and responsibilities for resources.

In the Bolivian Chaco, for example, we developed a program of “parabiologists”, who initially worked to collect data for biologists and conservationists. But boosted by Peter Feinsinger's “schoolyard ecology” approach and workshops, these indigenous technicians and scientists began to pose research questions, collect and analyze data, and present the results to their communities as well as to national and international conferences. They also managed a series of conservation programs including field research camps, environmental education activities with Isoleño-Guaraní schoolchildren, and one of the first legal commercial use of wildlife programs in Bolivia (red tegu lizard and collared peccary skins).

In Ecuador, we could provide financial support that enabled indigenous organizations to hire their own technical / administrative / legal staff, and in turn to access funds from their own government, so they could implement their own agendas on behalf of their communities and territories.

(Continued from page 3)

What drew you to become involved in academia and in the MDP program?

The opportunity to support students with interesting backgrounds and strong motivation to work in development. The opportunity to work with the dynamic and collaborative faculty associated with MDP, the Centers for African Studies and Latin American Studies, the TCD program, and several other departments and units on campus that I am just getting to know. The opportunity to continue learning. The opportunity to link Africa and Latin America, and to link academia with practice.

In your role as MDP program coordinator, what is something that you would particularly like to concentrate your efforts on, and why?

Support MDP students. Help to increase the number of African students in the MDP program. Support MDP core and affiliate faculty.

Explore opportunities for the MDP program to engage in corporate social responsibility. For example, gas and oil companies in Bolivia, Ecuador, Equatorial Guinea have long-term concession rights to areas within or adjoining community lands and protected areas. These companies have engaged with local communities and supported development and conservation efforts over long periods. I think there is an important role, as well as employment opportunity, for development practitioners to enable and improve these processes and initiatives.

Welcome, Cohort 5!



(From L to R, back row): Jessica Horwood, Irving Chan, Matt Anderson, Chad Henry, Ben Christ. (Front row): Rugiyatu Kane, Gabriela Polo, Whiteny Turientine, Kristen Marks. (Not pictured: Jennifer Meisenhelder)

This fall, UF MDP welcomed ten new students to the program. Seven members of Cohort 5 are from the US, and three are from other countries: Ecuador, Mexico, and Senegal. All members of Cohort 5 have experience working in international development initiatives. Some of the past experiences that new students have had are working with women's groups in the seaweed industry in Tanzania, researching the Ecuadorian Yasuni-ITT initiative, working with orphaned and vulnerable children in Malawi, teaching environmental science in Senegal, serving as project officer for Salvation Army projects in DRC and Haiti, and teaching Business English in Brazil. Several students also have experience working in initiatives in the United States. One student, for example, developed a hydroponic cropping system, and another worked for several years in a therapeutic wilderness program. Check out the student bios on the MDP website for more information about all of the current MDP students: <http://mdp.africa.ufl.edu/people/current-students/>

MDP Meet-and-greet at Lake Wauburg



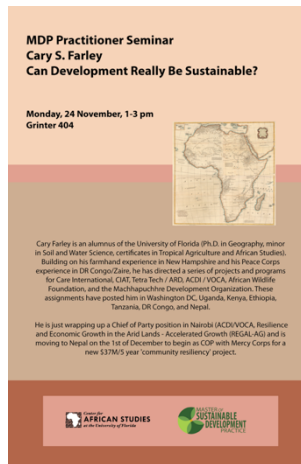
MDP director Glenn Galloway and students Jeremy Lambeth, Beau Bryant, Samantha Davis, Alex Sprague, and Gabriela Polo.

MDP students and faculty met at Lake Wauburg in August for the program's annual meet-and-greet. Kayaking, great weather, and delicious food were enjoyed by all.



MDP students Gabriela Polo and Liz Poulsen

Development Practitioner Seminars



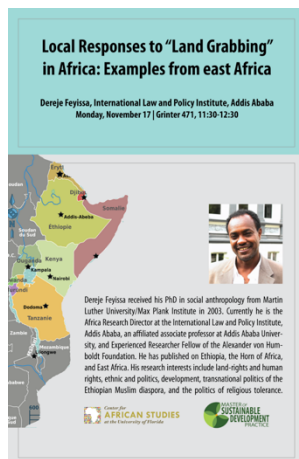
This semester, the MDP program, in coordination with the Center for African Studies, hosted three seminars with experienced international development practitioners.

Rick Gold, who has 35 years of experience in the development field including 15 years with USAID, facilitated a workshop with MDP students on November 14. Gold shared insights on the international development “industry,” tips on preparing an effective resume, and other advice about job-searching in the international development field.

Dr. Dereje Feyissa joined us on November 17 from the International Law and Policy Institute in Ethiopia to discuss the phenomenon of “land-grabbing,” in which governments of other countries (and sometimes agribusiness entities) purchase land in eastern African countries in order to use the land for agricultural production. Check out this post on the MDP blog for a summary of the talk: <http://mdpprogram.wordpress.com/2014/11/17/dr-dereje-feyissa-land-grabbing-in-east-africa/>

On November 24, development practitioner and UF alum Cary Farley gave a talk and facilitated a discussion on the question: “Can development really be sustainable?” Check out the blog post on his talk for a list of references that Dr. Farley compiled, which aim to critically tackle some of the “big questions” often facing international development practitioners:

<http://mdpprogram.wordpress.com/2014/12/01/cary-farley-can-development-really-be-sustainable/>



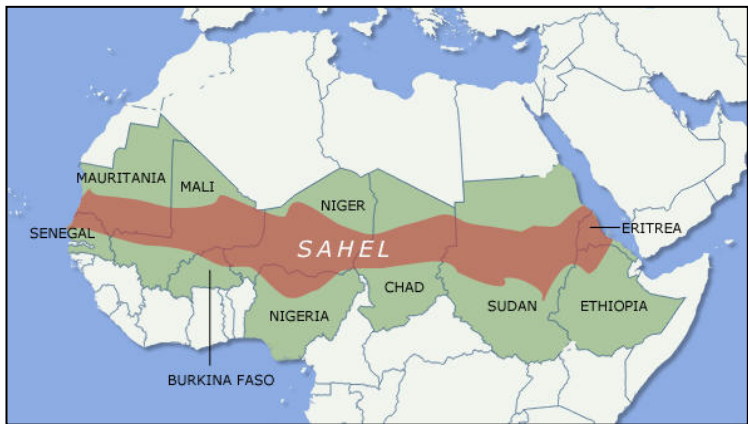
In addition to the three seminars, the MDP program also hosted a meeting with a delegation visiting from India on November 25. This meeting was an exciting opportunity for interested MDP faculty and students to interact with the delegation comprising of five dedicated individuals from major social development and environmental protection areas in India. The delegation was visiting Gainesville on its way to the United Nations' Framework Convention on Climate Change COP 20 Conference in Peru, Lima, December 1 – 12. The team was comprised of the Executive Director of CECOEDECON (<http://www.cecoedecon.org.in/>), a large NGO that hosts the UF study abroad program "UF in India: NGOs and Development" during its 5-day visit to Jaipur, a senior IAS (Indian Administrative Service) officer from the Indian state of Madhya Pradesh, a public health official, a judge, and a public TV producer. They met with MDP faculty and students for information exchange and to discuss possible areas of collaboration. The host of the event was MDP affiliate faculty member Muthusami Kumaran, Assistant Professor of Nonprofit Management & Community Organizations, in the Department of Family, Youth, and Community Sciences.



MDP students and faculty with members of the delegation from India

Sahel Symposium: Demography and Social Change in the African Sahel

Faculty from the UF MDP Program have launched an innovative collaborative initiative in partnership with two other Universities members of the MDP Global Association Network: Sciences Po (Paris, France), and University Cheikh Anta Diop (Dakar, Senegal). The aim is to promote institutional exchange across the Atlantic and a network of faculty and graduate students to work on the development challenges facing the African Sahel in the wake of security crises and climate change. This is the first initiative that builds on the MDP global network to foster inter-University collaboration on African development issues. The initiative is coordinated at UF through the Center for African Studies, the France-Florida Research Institute, the Sahel Research Group, the International Center (UFIC), and has been partly financed by the Cultural Services of the French Embassy in New York, which promotes closer association between American and French/Francophone Institutions. Though the project's funding is limited to the 2014-15 academic year, its promoters hope to leverage additional resources for ensuring its sustainability into the future – as well as seeding similar initiatives across the MDP global network of Universities.



The Sahel is an expansive region characterized by intense environmental change, political and economic instability, and rapid population growth – all of which contribute to various security challenges in the region. Despite this confluence of issues, development initiatives in the Sahel have lacked a systemic approach able to tackle interaction and feedback effects between different problem areas. The aim of the



project is to shed light on the interplay between these different challenges and to generate development-based interventions and solutions aimed at alleviating insecurity.

Selected project participants are to meet three times during the academic year, once in each location. The first series of activities took place at UF from September 20-26. Two students from the MDP program at Science Po and three students from UCAD MDP and Economics Programs attended. Due to visa problems, faculty from UCAD could not attend.

We kicked-off with a one-day symposium on the theme “Demography and the Challenge of Social Change in the African Sahel”, which was attended by more than 50 faculty and graduate students, and included three sessions:

- *Malcom Potts, PhD (founder of OASIS, UC Berkeley) and Alisha Graves, MPH (co-founder of OASIS)* presented a collision of crises in a discussion of population growth and climate change in Niger, followed by an argument for the effectiveness of family planning, girls’ education, and women’s empowerment programs in encouraging fertility decline.
- *Matt Turner, PhD (University of Wisconsin) and Leif Brottem, PhD (Grinnell College)* discussed the impact of micro-climate variability on pastoral and agricultural livelihoods and the constant need for these population to adapt to environmental change.

(continued)

- *Arame Tall, PhD (IFPRI) and Sarah McKune, PhD, MPH (University of Florida)* discussed the challenges of appropriately engaging local populations, particularly women farmers, in climate information services, and shared lessons from CCAFS projects in Senegal.



A series of workshops and lectures followed, designed to expose students to specific issues and to generate discussion so to facilitate small-team collaborative projects:

- Monday Sept. 22: "Pastoral livelihoods and vulnerability to climate change" by Dr. Sarah McKune (UF, Public Health)
- Tuesday Sept. 23: "Demography, girls' education, and women's empowerment in the Sahel" by Dr. Alisha Graves (Associate Director, OASIS Initiative)
- Wednesday Sept. 24: "Food insecurity in the Sahel: Global markets and domestic policies" by Dr. Renata Serra (UF, Center for African Studies)
- Friday Sept. 26: "Managing Salafi Activism in areas of limited statehood: Evidence from Mali and Niger" presented by Dr. Sebastian Elischer (University of Lunenburg and GIGA, Germany)
- Friday Sept. 26: Baraza Seminar Series "Linguistic Warscapes of Northern Mali" presented by Prof. Fiona McLaughlin (UF, Departments of Linguistics; and Languages, Literature and Culture).

The weeklong events concluded with the formation of small groups of students, who will be working each on a selected theme and will develop a deliverable in the form of a policy brief, conference presentation or poster.

Participants will reconvene at each of the partner universities for week-long collaborative endeavors, at Sciences Po Paris in spring 2015 and at the University Cheikh Anta Diop in Dakar during summer 2015. Periodic virtual conferences are scheduled throughout the year to facilitate long-distance collaboration. Subject to funding, we hope all groups will be able to make a presentation at the International Conference for Sustainable Development Practice, in September 2015, at Columbia University, New York.

If you want to know more:

Contact Dr. Renata Serra, PI (Center for African Studies at UF), rserra@ufl.edu

Sahel Research Group:

<http://sahelresearch.africa.ufl.edu/events-activities/>

FFRI: <http://franceflorida.clas.ufl.edu/>

<http://sahelresearch.africa.ufl.edu/>

MDP Global Association:

<http://mdpglobal.org/network>

Sciences Po MDP Program:

<http://www.sciencespo.fr/psia/content/master-development-practice>

UCAD MDP Program: <http://mdp.ucad.sn/>

Dr. Renata Serra is Lecturer in the Center for African Studies.

The Symposium week on "Demography and the Challenge of Social Change in the African Sahel" was extremely exciting, interesting and insightful. Learning about different issues that women in particular face around climate change and food security allowed me to understand the crisis in the Sahel from a different perspective - not of one that is from the region, but one seeking solutions as a future researcher and development practitioner. I look forward to future interactions and collaborative work with MDP students in Dakar and Paris!

- Rugiyatu Kane, MDP student



MDP Field Practicums: Summer 2014

Despite close encounters with pythons in toilets and scary-sounding viral diseases (check out our blog for the full stories: <http://mdpprogram.wordpress.com/>), all members of Cohort 4 returned from their field practicums unscathed and with a host of enriching experiences and new perspectives on the field of international development work.



Student	Host Institution/NGO	Location(s)	Project
Samantha Davis	Wuqu' Kawoq – Maya Health Alliance	Paquip, Guatemala	Market inventory survey to determine underlying causes of child malnutrition
Antonieta Eguren & Alex Sprague	South African Wildlife College	South Africa (various locations)	Situational analysis of communities
Jeremy Lambeth	Interministerial Committee for Territorial Planning	Port au Prince, Haiti	Facilitating scholarly exchange and study abroad in Haiti
Liz Poulsen	Ministry of Public Health	Tumbaco, Ecuador	Situation analysis for a teen pregnancy prevention program
Christa Roberts	Cayuga Sustainable Hospitality	Costa Rica, Nicaragua	Monitoring and evaluation of eco-lodges



Faculty Spotlight: Susan Paulson



This semester, the Center for Latin American Studies welcomed Dr. Susan Paulson as a core faculty member. Dr. Paulson previously taught at Miami University in Ohio and Lund University in Sweden, and has been involved in a number

of international development initiatives, mostly in Latin America. Dr. Paulson will be co-instructing the core MDP course “Sustainable Development Practice,” and in this position, will be helping MDP students prepare for their field practicums. We posed a few questions to Dr. Paulson to learn more about her experiences working abroad, and her advice for future development practitioners.

=====

What specific areas within the development field are you passionate about, and why?

I enjoy working with farming practices, agrobiodiversity management, agroforestry, especially when farmers invite me to learn by working alongside them.

What are some of the most meaningful initiatives that you have been involved in in other countries, and why were they meaningful to you?

An experience that was especially satisfying for me was participating in several stages of a Canadian project designed to support the academic success of Latin American students pursuing Master’s degrees in Latin America-based programs in Environmental Studies and Sustainable Development. Colleagues and I devised this project with the goal of empowering local men and women to do research and lead development initiatives in their own territories. It is a sweet irony that ultimate success of ours and similar efforts would render obsolete our work as “international experts.”

How would you sum up your “international development” experiences?

I’ve received many unforeseen lessons in the course of my work supporting initiatives with FAO, UNIFEM, World Bank, Family Health International, USAID,

CARITAS, Save the Children, and others. I now insist that “opportunity to learn” appear among the objectives of all development projects: it can be quite successfully fulfilled when no other objectives are met!

What drew you to become involved in academia and in the MDP program?

During fifteen years that I lived in South America, I was inspired and energized by involvement with graduate programs related to sustainable development practice. More recently, I had the pleasure of teaching some modules in an MDP sister program in Lund, Sweden. The opportunity to work with MDP students was one thing that motivated me to join the University of Florida in summer 2014.

What advice do you have for MDP students and graduates about working in the field of international development? Do you think there is anything that we need to be particularly aware of or cautious about?

My one advice is: think critically. Reflect critically on your own assumptions and roles in the process. Question the explicit and the underlying purposes of projects with which you are involved. Never stop asking: What is development? What do we want to conserve or sustain? In whose eyes? For whose lives?

What courses do you recommend for MDP students?

In spring 2015, I invite all of you to join a new course that I developed especially for MDP and TCD students, called *Power and Environment: Political ecology perspectives on conservation and development* (LAS6938 section 0188). This course brings together social and natural scientists and practitioners to ask: How does power work in and through ecosystems, economies, bodies, identities, institutions, environmental governance systems, and science itself? Course participants critically analyze diverse approaches to conservation and development, and they also explore and invent positive alternatives for the future.



Alumni Updates

Three cohorts of UF MDP students have graduated since the program began in 2010. Check out the initiatives in which they have been involved since graduating!



Greyson Nyamoga

Greyson Nyamoga graduated from the MDP program in 2012, when he returned to the Sokoine University of Agriculture in Tanzania and continued teaching and doing some research and consultancy work there. He conducted a research project titled "Contribution of Beekeeping on Conservation and Poverty Alleviation for Communities Adjacent to Forest Reserves in Tanzania." He is now earning a PhD in Forest and Resource Economics (Forest Sector Modeling for Tanzania) at the Norwegian University of Life Sciences in Norway.

Since graduating from the MDP program in Fall 2013, **Stephenie Chatfield** has moved to Ethiopia and is working as the Country Representative for Water is Life International.

Immediately following her graduation from the MDP program in 2014, **Raina Zantout** worked as the Monitoring, Evaluation, & Learning Manager for an Engineers without Borders (UF chapter) water development project in Khalanthok, Nepal. When this project ended, she moved to Tyre, Lebanon to work with the

Danish Refugee Council as a Monitoring & Evaluation Officer. She is now focusing on a 2-year development project funded by DFID.



Stephenie Chatfield in Ethiopia



Leandra Merz in Zambia

Leandra Merz (2014 MDP graduate) established an NGO, IIM International, in 2012. IIM International seeks to improve access to education in central Zambia, primarily through provision of secondary school scholarships. After graduating from the MDP program in May 2014, she moved to Chalata, Zambia to work full-time for IIM International. Since then, she has managed the construction of a Student Life Center to provide housing, meals, healthcare, and supplementary/vocational training to sponsor students. All major construction has been completed, furniture is being delivered and the center will be ready to host its first group of 24 students in January! For more information on Leandra Merz and IIM International please visit www.iiminternational.com.

Sydney Nilan (2013 MDP graduate) is the Peru Country Coordinator for the Runa Foundation. She is working to establish Runa's agroforestry and community development initiatives in Peru, researching Amazonian plants and their traditional uses in order to create new value for tropical forests that benefit local people and forest ecosystems. Currently she is working with Peruvian farmers to expand the production of Guayusa, a native Amazonian tea leaf, as well as working with local partner organizations on the development of a research center to study the efficacy of traditional Amazonian medicinal plants.



Sydney Nilan in Peru

Taryn Devereux is the new Program Coordinator for the Women's Leadership Program in Paraguay (WLPP) in the Department of Agricultural Education and Communication, at the University of Florida, in collaboration with the School of Agrarian Sciences (FCA) at the National University of Asuncion (UNA) in Paraguay. WLPP is funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) through the Higher Education for Development initiative.



Alumni Updates (continued)



Tshibangu Kalala Tshitshi in Mali

Tshibangu Kalala Tshitshi (2012 MDP graduate) works in the HURDL Lab (Humanitarian Response and Development Lab) within the department of Geography at the University of South Carolina as a Research Assistant. He supports the Mali Agro meteorological Advisory Program Assessment (USAID) and the Kaffrine Climate Services Program Design and Assessment Support (CCAFS/USAID) projects. His activities include field-testing of an assessment methodology for climate services programs, training partners in the use of assessment methodology for climate services, and extensive qualitative research into the impact of the CCAFS climate services work in Kaffrine. From 10 May- 18 July, 2014 he conducted further fieldwork on the assessment of the Mali Agro meteorological Advisory Program, trained field teams in field assessment

methodology, piloted and revised the methodology, coordinated institutional partners at ICRISAT and IER, conducted and supervised extended ethnographic fieldwork in selected villages.

After graduating from the MDP program with the first cohort in 2012, **Jennifer Carr** became the director of the Sarapiquí Conservation Learning Center in Costa Rica for one year. She returned to Gainesville to give birth to her daughter and is now working in the Department of Entomology and Nematology at UF where she creates educational material on invasive species for three national organizations (Protect U.S., the National Plant Diagnostic Network, the Sentinel Plant Network) and a statewide organization (Florida First Detector).

Conservation and Development Forum



On October 10th, 2014 the TCD program, with support from three MDP student coordinators (Antonieta Eguren, Jeremy Lambeth, and Alex Sprague), hosted a Conservation and Development Forum titled: "Land Tenure Policy and Social Conflict: Drivers of Deforestation in the Amazon". The CDF featured the inter-university, four-member team of the NSF project: "Collaborative Research: Contentious Land Change in the Eastern Amazon". Employing an innovative format of 2-minute speaker introductions, facilitated group question-writing and rotating round tables, the CDF allowed participants to discuss a wide range of topics including land tenure, fiscal incentives, infrastructure, gender implications and many more. Overall participants found the topics and style very engaging and wished it could have been longer!

UF Faculty Contribute to a New Book Produced by IUFRO WFSE

Faculty from UF contributed to the new book **Forests under Pressure – Local Responses to Global Issues** and the related **Issue Brief** produced by the International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO) Special Project World Forests, Society and Environment (WFSE) with other partner organizations including FAO, METLA (Finland), World Agroforestry Center, EFI, CIRAD, CATIE, VITRI, CIAS (Kyoto University) and THUNEN.

The book is the result of a collaborative work of 144 scientists and experts who acted as authors in different capacities and over 60 reviewers. Glenn Galloway, the Director of the UF MDP Program, participated as an editor and author of parts of the book, as did the following UF faculty members and students:

- Marianne Schmink, convening lead author of the case study “Forest citizenship in Acre, Brazil.”
- Karen Kainer, co-convening lead author of the case study “Community-based management in Quintana Roo, Mexico (with Edward A. Ellis). In this chapter, UF PhD student José Antonio Sierra Huelsz also participated as lead author.
- UF PhD student Ruslandi, convening lead author of the case study “Forest Stewardship Council certification of natural forest management in Indonesia: Required improvements, costs, incentives, and barriers”. Claudia Romero and Francis E. Putz contributed as lead authors of this chapter.

Building on 27 case studies from different parts of the world the book focuses on conditions that foster or hinder progress towards sustainable forest management (SFM) and forest-based local development. The case studies use a common analytical framework of prerequisite conditions to examine the implementation of SFM. The analysis focuses attention on prerequisite conditions and combinations of conditions that foster or constrain progress towards SFM and sustainable local development, and the interactions among these conditions.

The Issue Brief **Synergistic policies and measures are the key to advancing sustainable forest management and forest-based development** presents a brief synthesis of the main findings of the book and recommendations for the way forward in a concise format.

The book and the related Issue Brief can be downloaded at the IUFRO WFSE web page: <http://www.iufro.org/science/special/wfse/>

