



Issue 03 | Spring 2013

## Master of Sustainable Development Practice Program

Center for Latin American Studies

Center for African Studies

University of Florida | Gainesville, FL



# TRAINING A NEW GENERATION OF PRACTITIONERS TO ADDRESS THE COMPLEXITIES OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN INNOVATIVE AND PARTICIPATORY WAYS

## Director's Note



We are excited to provide you with an update of the University of Florida, Master of Sustainable Development Practice (MDP) Program. While the second cohort of students have graduated or are nearing graduation, our third cohort has embarked on their field practicums in diverse countries of Africa, South and Central America and the Caribbean after having developed proposals with considerable faculty support, and feedback and endorsements from a myriad of host organizations. At the same time, we are preparing for a new group of enthusiastic students who will join us in August, many of whom have already gained strong international experiences.



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It is appropriate here to acknowledge the invaluable, indeed essential, support the MDP Program has received from affiliate and core faculty members as lecturers and in advisory roles in student committees. New faculty members, not yet formally affiliated to the program, have also made significant contributions to the program and this willingness to collaborate is greatly appreciated.

A key to program success is the identification of organizations willing to host MDP students during their field practicums. In some cases, faculty members have been instrumental in helping students link to organizations interested in working with MDP students. In other cases, the students themselves have taken the lead in securing an attractive placement for their field practicums. Whatever the case, experience is showing that MDP students can make meaningful contributions to ongoing development initiatives, while fulfilling a key academic requirement of the program. Indeed, two graduates have gained placement with the organizations

that hosted them during their field practicums. In the coming years, we will continue to foster new relationships and strengthen existing ones to provide our students with a broad array of options. The organizations that hosted our students in 2012 and those hosting them this summer can be found in this newsletter, along with the topics pursued in the field practicums.

With regards to the Global MDP Network, this February, the Director of the Center for Latin American Studies, Dr. Phil Williams, accompanied me to the Fifth Annual MDP Programs Summit held at the University Cheikh Anta Diop in Dakar, Senegal. The MDP Global Association continues to grow and as indicated below is collaborating with the U.N. Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) to hold the First International Conference on Sustainable Development Practice in Columbia University, New York in early September 2013. We anticipate a significant presence of the University of Florida in the Conference.

In closing, I would like to acknowledge the invaluable support provided by our student, Hans Goertz in the past year as a graduate assistant in the MDP office. In addition to his support in the development of this newsletter, Hans helped with numerous activities during the year, including student consultations on program quality. Our new graduates also devoted precious time to providing a systematic appraisal of the program to help us introduce changes to enhance its quality over time.

Many thanks to all for these contributions.

**Glenn Galloway**

## MDP Signs New Agreements

The MDP Program continues to seek funding opportunities for persons aspiring to pursue the degree. This year, three agreements have been signed with the following organizations that provide important sources of funding for graduate applicants.

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[The Organization of American States](#), which implements the OAS Scholarship and Training Programs. Scholarship recipients may apply for admission into UF's MDP or Master of Arts in Latin American Studies (MALAS) degree programs under the signed agreement.

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[The National Secretariat of Higher Education, Science, Technology and Innovation](#) (SENESCYT). This agreement offers a source of potential funding for Ecuadorian students with an interest in pursuing a MDP degree in the University of Florida.

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[The Foundation for the Future of Colombia](#) (COLFUTURO). Colombian students admitted into UF's MDP or MALAS degree programs can apply for a COLFUTURO Loan-Scholarship.

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These agreements were made possible thanks to the cooperation of the Center for Latin American Studies (CLAS) and concerted support and guidance from the University of Florida International Center (UFIC). We look forward to hosting students receiving support through these agreements.

# Program News

## Graduate Certificate in Sustainable Development Practice (SDP)

The MDP Program offers a Graduate Certificate in Sustainable Development Practice (SDP). The SDP Certificate provides interdisciplinary training and exposure to skills in sustainable development for researchers and practitioners. The certificate curriculum integrates social, health, natural and management sciences.



To obtain the certificate, students at the Master's level are required to take 12 program credits while PhD students must complete 15 credits of required coursework.

You can find additional details about the certificate and requirements on the MDP website:

<http://www.africa.ufl.edu/mdp/prospective/sdpcertificate.html>.

If you are interested in learning more about our certificate program please contact Cindy Tarter, Program Coordinator, [ctarter@ufl.edu](mailto:ctarter@ufl.edu)

## Final Field Practicum Presentations

MDP students from the second cohort completed their final presentations in April and May 2013. Presentations were open to the public, and were each followed by a defense with committee members. Regions and topics of focus were quite diverse and enriching.

We would like to express our sincere thanks to the members of each student's supervisory committee, whose names are listed below, for your invaluable support to our students.

Likewise, we also want to note the important contribution made by all the international host organizations, listed in the following table, with which our students carried out their field practicums.

**Thank you for your support and partnership in their academic achievements.**



*Stephenie Chatfield carries out her final presentation*

## Program News

### MDP Final Presentations, Committees and Field Practicum Organizations

MDP Student	Presentation Title	Committees Members	Host Organizations
<b>Stephenie Chatfield</b>	Developing tools for impact: Sanitation behavior change among women in Awassa, Ethiopia	<b>Chair:</b> Richard Rheingans <b>Members:</b> Sarah McKune, Marit Ostebo	Water is Life International
<b>Marliz Arteaga Gomez Garcia</b>	The development and testing of a participatory process for creating a regionally appropriate environmental curriculum to empower teachers in Pando, Bolivia	<b>Chair:</b> Stephen Perz <b>Members:</b> Marianne Schmink, Martha Monroe	Universidad Amazonica de Pando, and Natural and Biological Science Area
<b>Indah Waty Bong</b>	Learning what life is for an insider while remaining a ' <i>lekgowa</i> ': A participatory approach to understand local adaptive capacity and resilience in Nokaneng, Botswana	<b>Chair:</b> Grenville Barnes <b>Member:</b> Renata Serra	Southern Africa Regional Environmental Project (SAREP)
<b>Sydney Nilan</b>	Participatory Planning: Laying the foundations for collaboration in ecotourism development in Chirripó, Costa Rica	<b>Chair:</b> Marianne Schmink <b>Member:</b> Glenn Galloway	Tropical Agriculture Research and Higher Education Center (CATIE)
<b>Angela Quashigah</b>	New Life Orphanage needs assessment and building project: Nungua, Ghana	<b>Chair:</b> Renata Serra <b>Member:</b> Sharon Abramowitz	New Life Orphanage
<b>Sky Georges</b>	Youth leadership development in Chennai, India: Setting the foundations for the next generation of world-class leaders	<b>Chair:</b> Marta Hartmann <b>Members:</b> Muthusami Kumaran, Glenn Galloway	Sethu Bhaskara Matriculation Higher Secondary School

## Program News

<b>Ramin Gillett</b>	Sankuyo on the eve of the Botswana hunting ban: Local perspectives and implications for the future	<b>Chair:</b> Grenville Barnes <b>Member:</b> Jamie Kraft	Southern Africa Regional Environmental Project (SAREP)
<b>Nicolas Vasconcellos</b>	Improved livelihoods for poor communities through less constrained market opportunities for cattle farmers in Ngamiland District, Botswana	<b>Chair:</b> James Sterns <b>Member:</b> Grenville Barnes	Southern Africa Regional Environmental Project (SAREP)
<b>David Pittman</b>	Developing Monitoring Systems for Integrated Water Quality Management in Mayana Village, Namibia	<b>Chair:</b> Brian Child <b>Member:</b> Grenville Barnes	Southern Africa Regional Environmental Project (SAREP)
<b>Sheldon Wardwell</b>	Community Needs and Assets in Maar Village, South Sudan: Local Governance, Health and Fish Production	<b>Chair:</b> Leonardo Villalon <b>Members:</b> Sharon Abramowitz, Jon Dain	Development partners and the Jonglei State Government

## Spring 2013 Graduation

The MDP Program celebrated the graduation of many members of our second cohort this spring. In addition to their MDP degrees, eight students completed the Tropical Conservation & Development Certificate; one student earned a Graduate Minor in Nonprofit Organizational Leadership and one student will earn a Certificate in African Studies. Students focused their electives credits on a number of “specializations” including environmental education, water resource management, entrepreneurship, forestry, value chain analysis, governance and community-based natural resource management.

*(Top row, Left to Right): Ramin Gillett, Sky V. Georges, David Pittman, Sydney Nilan, Richard Rheingans, Glenn Galloway, Stephenie Chatfield, Grenville Barnes, Cindy Tarter, (Below, Left to right) Nicolas Vasconcellos, Angela Quashigah, Marianne Schmink, Indah Waty Bong, and (not pictured) Marliz Arteaga Gomez-Garcia, Sheldon Wardwell, and Brian Child.*



## Program News



*(Left) Nicolas Vasconcellos receives his diploma at graduation.*



*All smiles after the commencement ceremony: Sydney Nilan, Nicolas Vasconcellos, Indah Bong, Marliz Arteaga Gomez Garcia, Stephenie Chatfield, and (not pictured) Angela Quashigah.*

# Program News

## Field Practicums Summer 2013

MDP Cohort 3 have packed their bags and travelled to their summer field practicum locations! The field practicum represents the formative development experience for MDP students. It provides them the opportunity to apply interdisciplinary and cross cultural skills outside the classroom with experienced practitioners, local communities, working with agencies and organizations to address important development challenges.

*MDP student, Antonia Lliteras' photo of her packing supplies: She wrote, "Preparados... Listos..."*



Students secured exciting placement opportunities with the support of supervisory committee members, core and affiliate faculty. For example, Dr. Carmen Diana Deere connected two of our students to new resilience to climate change initiatives with CIAT in Colombia, focusing on agricultural production and gender. Dr. Sandra Russo was instrumental in linking another student to her field practicum in Tunisia. Dr. Hartmann created an opportunity for a field practicum in Paraguay in the framework of her new USAID funded initiative.

We would also like to acknowledge the host institutions, organizations and research centers who have partnered with our MDP Program students, creating opportunities for them to contribute directly to development and research initiatives. **We highly value our partnerships with each of you.**

## Program News

### MDP Cohort 3: Field Practicums Institution, Location and Project

Student	Host Institution	Location(s)	Project
<b>Leandra Clough</b>	<b>Southern African Wildlife College (SAWC)</b>	Kruger National Park, Mozambique	Training evaluation for the Governance Dashboard Project at SAWC
<b>Taryn Devereux</b>	<b>Research Program on Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security (CCAFS), in collaboration with CIAT</b>	Cauca province, Colombia	Development of a methodology to collect sex-disaggregated information on vulnerability, adaptive capacity and adaptation strategies to climate change
<b>Seth Marsala-Bell</b>	<b>Research Program on Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security (CCAFS), in collaboration with CIAT</b>	Cauca province, Colombia	Needs assessment to determine community understanding of climate change and its implications for agriculture and gender roles
<b>Hans Goertz</b>	<b>International Organization for Migration (IOM), Mennonite Central Committee (MCC)</b>	Haiti (Petit-Goave, Jacmel and Desarmes)	Evaluating environmental programming in Haiti: Evaluation of reforestation programming with regards to efficiency, impact and sustainability
<b>Jessica Jefferson</b>	<b>Amazon Promise</b>	Iquitos, Peru	¡Soy Capaz! Plus: Integrating Environmental Stewardship into Health Outreach: Community needs assessment on synergies between health outcomes, environmental conditions and gender relations to support AP's educational outreach
<b>Antonia Lliteras</b>	<b>Universidad Nacional de Asuncion (UNA) Center for Leadership, Ministry for Women. (UF is a partner in project)</b>	Paraguay	Leadership workshops in the San Francisco High School Needs identification for high school female students on leadership development and the development and execution of a leadership workshop
<b>Sebastian Pazmino</b>	<b>Ecuador Tierra Viva</b>	Santa Cruz, Galapagos, Ecuador	Creating a needs assessment & master site plan for the highland estates in Santa Cruz, Galapagos, Ecuador
<b>Jose Perez Orozco</b>	<b>Semilla Nueva (New Seed)</b>	Guatemala	Agricultural assessment and impact of a sustainable agriculture NGO in Southern Guatemala

## Program News

<b>Daniel Stirling</b>	<b>St. Joseph's Hospital and Dr. Grau Albert Valencian Community Foundation (DGAVCF)</b>	Kitgum, Uganda	Strengthening of preventive measures and hygiene promotion in the communities of Kitgum district: Baseline data, needs assessment and development of outreach plan for a hospital serving communities in Kitgum
<b>Raina Zantout</b>	<b>Institut National de Recherche en Genie Rural, Euax et Forets (INRGREF) and Oued Souhil Farms Association</b>	Tunisia	Evaluation of wastewater reuse for irrigation and the impact on human and environmental health via needs assessment and gender analysis data from farming communities
<b>Maria Checa</b>	<b>Ceiba Foundation (in Lalo Loor Dry Forest Reserve)</b>	Ecuador	Feasibility of butterfly farming initiatives in Western Ecuador as a viable tool for sustainable development and capacity building
<b>Gentry Mander</b>	<b>Belize Foundation for Research and Environmental Education (BFREE)</b>	Belize	Cacao Value Chain Analysis in Belize: Researching market opportunities for the cacao production



*Tunisia (photo by Raina Zantout)*

## Program Events

### MDP Practitioner Forum Seminars

#### *Do I really need to pay attention to gender?*

January 23rd, 2013

#### **Dr. Sandra Russo, Director of Program Development, UFIC**



MDP started off Spring semester with a stimulating and insightful seminar by Dr. Sandra Russo, Director of Program Development at the University of Florida's International Center (UFIC). She is an affiliate faculty with the MDP Program, the Center for African Studies, and the Center for Women's Studies and Research, among others. Dr. Russo earned her Ph.D in Agronomy from the University of Florida and has extensive experience in issues of agriculture, gender, and development.

In summer 2012, Dr. Sandra Russo and UF students, including MDP Graduate Kristen Augustine and Fall 2013 incoming student Jeremy Lambeth traveled to Jordan to conduct pilot research utilizing the Women's Empowerment in Agriculture Index. Dr. Russo is currently engaged with two projects in the MENA (Middle East North Africa) region: the USAID-funding Modernizing Extension and Advisory Systems (MEAS) Social Capital Building project in Jordan, and the USDA-funded Reclaimed Wastewater MENA NWC in Tunisia. MDP students and alumni continue to support these projects in their work and during their field practicums.



Dr. Russo spoke with students and faculty about the role of gender, and the progression of its place in development now. She challenged participants to understand the importance of incorporating gender in development work, sharing several concrete examples from her own experiences and trajectory. She discussed the skill-set development practitioners require in their work.

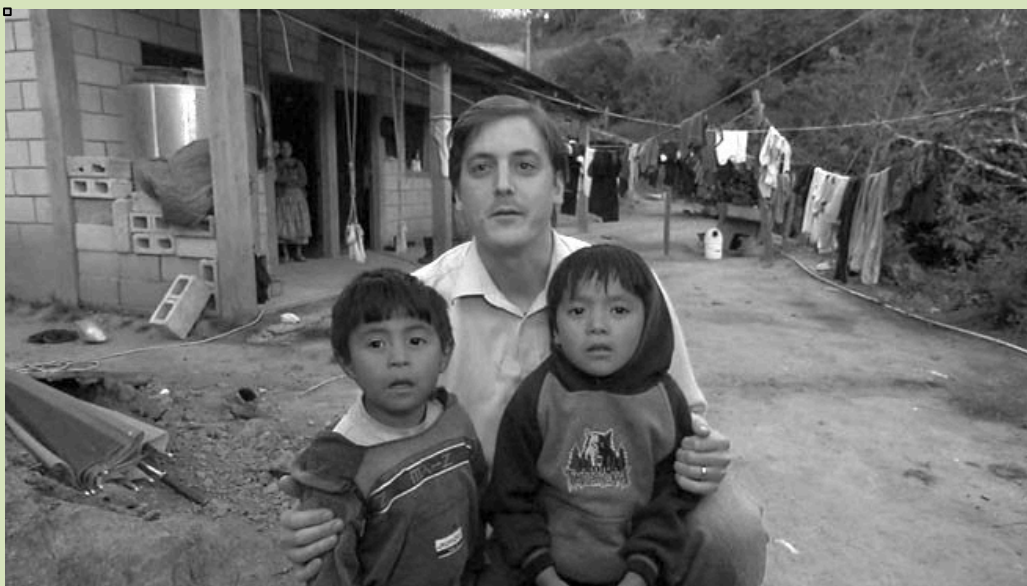
## Program Events

### *Seeing Justice, Seeking Justice: New Approaches to Community Development: the linguistic and cultural dimensions of child malnutrition in Guatemala*

February 20<sup>th</sup>, 2013

#### **Dr. Peter Rohloff, Medical Director, Wuqu' Kawoq | Maya Health Alliance**

The MDP Program and the UF Department of Linguistics collaborated for a special seminar by Dr. Peter Rohloff, Medical Director of Wuqu' Kawoq| Maya Health Alliance.



Here Dr. Rohloff provides an overview of his seminar:

“Guatemala has the highest rate of chronic child malnutrition in the Western hemisphere. It also has one of the largest indigenous populations (Maya) in the hemisphere. Although a great deal of attention has been paid to the technical problem of malnutrition in Guatemala, very little attention has been paid to the ways in which child malnutrition maps closely to the cultural, ethnic, and linguistic stratification which characterizes modern Guatemalan society. In particular, indigenous Maya populations in Guatemala are often faced with a perverse dilemma, which requires them to choose either between economic advancement and health or preservation of their traditional cultural and linguistic lifeways. Here, I discuss our novel multidisciplinary, grass-roots approach to the problem of child malnutrition in Guatemala, which has successfully transcended this “development dilemma” by integrating medical development priorities into community-based language and cultural revitalization efforts. This model has significance for development efforts in minority language communities world-wide.”

## Program Events

### *Islamic NGOs and Development Aid in Africa Symposium*

April 12<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup>, 2013

**Presented by the Islam in Africa Working-group, Center for African Studies, in cooperation with the Department of Religion, the Department of Anthropology, and the Master of Sustainable Development Practice Program**

(From the symposium website)

“After years of neglect, religion as a factor in development aid in Africa is currently gaining increasing attention. This new interest has spurred research on the role of faith-based organizations and religiously driven development initiatives, and how these relate to general humanitarian principles within development theory. A largely ignored aspect of this phenomenon is the significant increase of Muslim-based development activities, embodied in the expansion of a number of local and international Muslim NGOs across Africa.

This symposium seeks to fill this void by exploring the nature, role, and impact of Muslim NGOs in Africa. It aims to analyze how these NGOs enact broader principles of Islamic humanitarianism, how their work intersects with broader political trajectories, and how they affect socio-economic developments in different African contexts.”



**Islam In Africa Working Group, Center for African Studies**  
*In cooperation with the Department of Religion, the Department of Anthropology, the Master of Sustainable Development Practice Program, and the UF Office of Research*

**PRESENTS:**

**ISLAMIC NGOs AND DEVELOPMENT AID IN AFRICA**

**A SYMPOSIUM — APRIL 12-13, 2013**

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<b>404 Grinter Hall</b> <b>Friday, April 12</b> <b>3:30 PM</b>	<b>Jonathan Benthall</b> <b>(University College, London)</b> Islamic charities in Africa and the International Aid System
<b>404 Grinter Hall</b> <b>Saturday, April 13</b> <b>8:30 AM</b>	<b>Coffee &amp; Tea</b>
<b>9:00 AM</b>	<b>Mayke Kaag</b> <b>(African Studies Centre, Leiden)</b> Transnational Islamic NGOs in Africa: Local Contexts and Global Trends
<b>10:00 AM</b>	<b>Ibrahim Yahaya (UF)</b> Politicization of Islamic Humanitarian Aid: The Case of Albasar International Foundation in Niger
<b>11:00 AM</b>	<b>Cecelia Lynch (UC Irvine)</b> The Influence of Global Political and Economic Discourses on Islamic Humanitarian Ethics in Africa
<b>12:00 PM</b>	<b>Lunch Break</b>
<b>1:30 PM</b>	<b>Plenary Panel Discussion, all four speakers plus UF moderator</b> “Islamic NGOs and Development Aid in Africa: Impacts and Prospects”

## Program Events

### ***Justice in Motion: Responding to Changing Needs with Nicaragua's Poor*** **April 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2013**

**Sarah Junkin Woodward**



Sarah Junkin Woodard works with the Center for Development in Central America (CDCA), the Nicaraguan project of the non-profit, faith-based organization, the Jubilee House Community (JHC). Before moving to Nicaragua in 1994, the JHC operated shelters for the homeless and battered women in Statesville, NC. Working in Nicaragua for the past 19 years, with volunteers from UFL and elsewhere, the CDCA seeks to respond to human needs created by poverty and often exacerbated by natural disasters, in the second poorest nation in the western hemisphere.

The CDCA focuses on justice *now*, working towards freedom from poverty, helping communities become self-sufficient, sustainable, democratic entities, specifically in the areas of

- sustainable economic development
- organic agriculture
- appropriate technology
- education
- health care

CDCA focuses special attention on small enterprise development in the communities they collaborate with to help secure fair prices for their products.

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### ***Innovations for International Development Symposium***

**May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2013**

**Hosted by The International Center (UFIC), IFAS International Programs, and the Emerging Pathogens Institute (EPI)**

*Note:* Although the symposium was not an MDP event, it is important to recognize its' significance to the MDP Program and to the many campus-wide initiatives and collaborations related to development.

The event was an exciting opportunity for members of the UF community to exchange information and ideas about technologies and innovations that could be used to address significant development issues in impoverished countries around the world. The focus of the symposium included disciplines as diverse as health, engineering, and agriculture with a primary concentration on the themes: technology; capacity building/implementation; and extension/technology transfer. The symposium included a poster session and began with a keynote address, followed by short presentations, and group discussion on the next steps to further collaboration on innovations for international development.

## Program Events

### MDP Peacebuilding Workshop

March 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2013

MDP Professor Jon Dain facilitated a daylong Spring Semester workshop with MDP students in which several aspects of peacebuilding and conflict were discussed. In advance of the workshop, students coordinated a screening of the acclaimed documentary *Pray the Devil back to Hell*, charting the struggle of Liberian women to establish peace in their war-torn home land of Liberia in 2003. This served as an introduction to the complexities of conflict. Participants also read excerpts from *The Moral Imagination: The Art and Soul of Building Peace* by John Paul Lederach.



In the workshop, participants conducted conflict analysis through the review and presentation of case studies, ranging from the violence associated with drugs in Mexico, conflict driven by climate change and apartheid in South Africa. MDP Program Coordinator Cindy Tarter presented a case study on the role of youth in peacebuilding in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Students were urged to examine the role of conflict and peacebuilding in the work they will carry out in their field practicums and future work.

Participants were exposed to tools and strategies for peacebuilding. One tool, called the *Tree of Conflict*, was engaged to analyze the issues, causes, actors and impacts of conflicts through selected case studies. Participants were also exposed to the practice of *Peace Circles*, which are commonly used in restorative justice. After an introduction, the group learned by practice, participating in their own circle.



# Program Events

## Upcoming

***International Conference on Sustainable Development Practice (ICS DP): Advancing Evidence-Based Solutions for the Post-2015 Sustainable Development Agenda***  
**September 6-7, 2013 at Columbia University, New York.**



From the ICS DP website:

The Global Association of Master's in Development Practice Programs (MDP), in collaboration with the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN), will host the First International Conference on Sustainable Development Practice (ICS DP) September 6-7, 2013 at Columbia University, New York.

The Conference theme, *Advancing Evidence-Based Solutions for the Post-2015 Sustainable Development Agenda*, is seeking proposals for practical solutions to address the complex challenges of sustainable development at local, regional, and global levels. Proposals are welcomed across 12 thematic areas, linking with the UN SDSN framework (please see below for further information on the 12 themes). We are seeking input from those involved in research, policy, practice, and business across international sustainable development sectors. The aim of the conference is to share and identify practical, evidence-based solutions that can support the UN SDSN leadership in shaping the Post-2015 Agenda. The conference seeks to mobilize the expertise of the scientific and technical communities in academia, civil society and the private sector.

The Global Association of the Master's in Development Practice (MDP) programs are a growing network of 24 Universities across six continents, with a Secretariat based at the Earth Institute, Columbia University in New York. Together, this network is committed to a high-intensity program of teaching, research, innovation, and practice, delivering leading edge trans-disciplinary training in four "pillars"- health, natural, social, and management sciences. Globally, MDP Postgraduate Students are trained in leading edge scientific and social science techniques in order to develop international development solutions. This is a world leading, uniquely innovative training model that brings together scientists and social scientists to achieve translational results, contributing science-based solutions to the world's most pressing problems.

### **Keynote Address**

Professor Jeffrey D. Sachs, Director of The Earth Institute, Columbia University; Quetelet Professor of Sustainable Development; and Special Advisor to United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon on the Millennium Development Goals

### **Call for Abstracts**

You do not need to be a member of the Global Association of Master's in Development Practice Program or the Sustainable Development Solutions Network to submit an abstract.

**Deadline for Submission of Abstracts:** June 17th, 2013.

## Faculty News

### Renata Serra



Dr. Renata Serra is Lecturer in the Center for African Studies, and core faculty member in the MDP program. She co-teaches the courses *Development Theory and Practice in Latin America and Africa* with Dr. Marianne Schmink each Fall. An economist by training, she earned her PhD from Cambridge University (UK) in 1997, and has since focused her research, consultancy and teaching activities on issues of child labor, social capital, agriculture and gender, aid and political economy, with particular attention to West Africa and Mali.

This past semester, Dr. Serra has completed a collaborative research project investigating the role of collective action in enabling women smallholders to enhance their income, link to markets, and become more economically empowered. The Women in Collective Action project was managed by Oxfam UK and covered three sectors that are crucial to women smallholders in three African countries: honey in Ethiopia, shea butter in Mali and vegetables in Tanzania. Final reports and other materials are available from <http://womenscollectiveaction.com>.

Until recently, Dr. Serra was the coordinator of a multi-year research project that examined the political and institutional factors underpinning economic reforms in the cotton sectors in four major African cotton producers: Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon and Mali. This project was part of the Africa Power and Politics Programme, an international research consortium headed by ODI (London UK). Working papers and other outputs from the Cotton Sector Reform project can be accessed through: <http://www.institutions-africa.org/page/cotton-sector-reforms>.



### Carmen Diana Deere



Dr. Deere is a Distinguished Professor of Latin American Studies, Food & Resource Economics and is core faculty of the MDP Program. She teaches the MDP course *Foundations of Economic Analysis for Sustainable Development Practitioners*. She is a development economist specializing on Latin America. Her research focuses on gender and development, specifically the gender distribution of assets and wealth, agricultural development and land policy, rural social movements, and agrarian history.

This year, the UF Center for Latin American Studies has been awarded a \$640,000 grant by UN Women, the United Nations entity for gender equality and the empowerment of women. Dr. Deere is the lead-PI for the grant. The award will support the comparative research of the Gender Asset Gap project, an international team of feminist economists that includes researchers at American University, the International Institute of Management-Bangalore, the University of Ghana, Yale University and the University of Florida.

## Faculty News

With initial support from the Dutch Foreign Ministry under their Millennium Development Goal 3 initiative, in 2010 the Gender Asset Gap project carried out nationally representative household asset surveys in Ecuador and Ghana, and of the state of Karnataka in India. These were the first large-scale surveys to collect both individual and household-level data on asset ownership in developing countries in order to estimate the intra-household distribution of wealth. The research showed that while there was relative gender parity within households in Ecuador, in Ghana women own 30 percent, and in Karnataka, India, only 19 percent of gross household physical wealth. The two-year research grant will allow the team to investigate three new topics with these rich data sets: the impact of economic shocks on the vulnerability of men and women; men's and women's participation in credit markets and their debt burdens; and the role of inheritance in the gender distribution of wealth.

In addition to several past publications, Carmen Diana Deere recently had an article published in the Journal of Economic Inequality: Deere, Carmen Diana, Abena D. Oduro, Hema Swaminathan and Cheryl Doss. 2013. [Property rights and the gender distribution of wealth in Ecuador, Ghana and India.](#)

### Marianne Schmink



Dr. Marianne Schmink is a Professor in the Center for Latin American Studies, Anthropology, and the Tropical and Conservation Development (TCD) Program. She is core faculty member of the MDP Program, co-teaching *Development Theory and Practice in Latin America and Africa* each Fall semester. She is also the MDP Graduate Coordinator.

Dr. Schmink was recently awarded a UF Research Opportunity Seed Fund grant (PI Marianne Schmink with Co-PIs Simone Athayde, Stephanie Bohlman, Anthony Oliver-Smith, and Michael Bindor) for a project entitled "Designing a Framework for Integrative Research on Dams, Environment and Society in the Amazon,"

August 1, 2013-July 31, 2015 (\$83,000). The project will involve collaboration with other UF faculty and with colleagues at several Brazilian universities, as part of TCD's on-going working group on dams.

She was also invited to be a member of the Coalition of Advisors for the Ecoexist project on Human-Elephant Conflict in eastern Okavanga panhandle of Botswana, April 2013-present. In May, Dr. Schmink traveled to Botswana to advise on design of programs to mitigate human-elephant conflict and enhance the economic value of elephants to local communities.

In closing, Dr. Schmink gave several presentations this past Spring, which included:

V. J. Mintzer, A. R. Martin, V. M.F. da Silva, M.Schmink, K. Lorenzen, and T. K. Frazer, "Interdisciplinary insights on the conservation of illegally harvested Amazon River dolphins." Presented at the 2013 Southeast and Mid-Atlantic Marine Mammal Symposium, University of North Florida, Jacksonville, FL, 22-24 March, 2013.

Marianne Schmink, "Experiments in Socio-Environmental Development in Amazonia." Invited speaker for 2013 Florida International Summit, "Development, Diplomacy and Defense: Opportunities in latin America & the Caribbean," University of South Florida, Tampa, FL, 28 February 2013.

Marianne Schmink, "Experiments in Socio-Environmental Development in Amazonia." Panel on "Emergent Amazonia," conference on "Emergent Brazil," University of Florida, in association with the Centro de Pesquisa e Documentação de História Contemporânea do Brasil, Fundação Getúlio Vargas, Gainesville FL, February 14-15, 2013.

## MDP Student Funding Awarded

*Funding known as of June 2013*

**Current students:** Four current MDP students received the Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Fellowship for the next academic year (2013-2014): Raina Zantout (Arabic), Leandra Clough (Swahili), Hans Goertz (Portuguese) and Gentry Mander (Portuguese). Dave Pittman received a summer FLAS fellowship in Swahili. Jessica Jefferson received an assistantship with Rez Life. Jose Juan Orozco and Sebastian Pazmino received continuing funding from their current assistantships with the Center for Latin American Studies and Florida Opportunities Scholars, respectively.

**Incoming students:** Elizabeth Poulsen was awarded the MDP Graduate Assistantship. Beau Bryant was awarded a graduate assistantship with Florida Opportunities Scholars. Alexandra Sprague was awarded a TCD Fellowship, in conjunction with support from Latin American Studies and the MDP Program. Suni Brito was awarded a Fellowship from the American Association of University Women (AAUW), an assistantship with the Center for Leadership & Service, and a UF Graduate grant. Amber Zappia was awarded a two-year graduate assistantship with the UF Travel and Recreation Program (TRiP) through the Department of Student Activities and Involvement.

**We congratulate all for being granted these awards and fellowships!**

## 8th Annual Conference of the Social Sciences

**February 16<sup>th</sup>, 2013**

The 2013 conference of the social sciences took place on Saturday, February 16th in Smathers Library Room 1A. MDP Students Sheldon Wardwell and Dan Stirling both presented posters during the poster session. There were several interesting talks as well.

## World Bank Conference on Land and Poverty

**April 8 – 11<sup>th</sup>, 2013**

Three MDP students attended the World Bank Conference on Land and Poverty. The annual conference brings together representatives from governments, the development community, civil society, academia, and the private sector to discuss issues of concern to communities, land practitioners and policymakers worldwide. The theme for the 2013 conference was “Moving towards transparent land governance: Evidence-based next steps” and featured a presentation by MDP core faculty member Grenville Barnes.



*(Above) MDP Students Sydney Nilan and Dave Pittman in Washington DC*

## Students News

*MDP 2<sup>nd</sup> year students Sydney Nilan, Dave Pittman, and Indah Bong, with MDP Professor Dr. Grenville Barnes at the World Bank Conference*



### Center for African Studies Research Report 2012-2013

MDP student Stephenie Chatfield's submission to the Center for African Studies Research Report was accepted. Her report, *Capturing Impact: Monitoring and Evaluating a Sanitation Program in Ethiopia*, provides a summary of her field practicum project, working on issues of sanitation through women's livelihood groups associated with an NGO in Ethiopia. Her report will be available on the [CAS website](#).



## Tropilunch Presentations

Tropilunch is a weekly seminar run by graduate students from the Tropical Conservation and Development (TCD) Program. It provides a forum for a range of discussions and presentations related to TCD work and research. Students are provided with an opportunity to present and discuss their research projects with peers and faculty. In addition, discussion sessions on issues of current interest are also held. Visiting scholars and conservation practitioners also participate when available. It is held every Tuesday at 12:45 p.m. in Grinter 376.

### **Sydney Nilan**

2<sup>nd</sup> year MDP student

February 19<sup>th</sup>

Stakeholder Participation in Planning for Community Based Development:  
Lessons learned from rural community tourism in Chirripó, Costa Rica

Sydney provided the following overview of her talk: “We’ve all heard about the importance of participation in designing sustainable conservation and development initiatives, but how do we actually make it happen? This Tropilunch will look at strategies for identifying stakeholders and creating opportunities for meaningful participation in the planning process. Drawing on experience from my practicum project in the indigenous district of Chirripó, Costa Rica, we will explore different types of ‘data’ that can be gained from participatory engagement and how the process of collecting it can contribute to building foundations for a multi-stakeholder platform. We will look at typologies of participation and how methods of engagement may change across stakeholder groups, and discuss some practical techniques for eliciting needed information, including participatory workshop design. Examples will be drawn from an evaluation of local capitals as a first step in the creation of a long-term plan to mobilize local ‘assets’ for a sustainable ecotourism development initiative, as defined by the local community according to their needs, values, and priorities.”

### **Marliz Arteaga Gómez-García**

2<sup>nd</sup> year MDP Student

March 26, 2013

Marliz provided the following summary of her presentation: “This project was conducted during the months of May, June, July and August, 2011. The main objective was to develop and test a participatory process for creating a regionally appropriate environmental curriculum, which helps introduce the theme of climate change into educational curricula in Pando, Bolivia, through the empowerment of the teachers. As the Government of Bolivia recognizes the importance of climate change for the people of the country, there is a clear demand to ensure that the educational curriculum in all regions of the country incorporates climate change. It is a challenge to integrate environmental education with climate change into a wide host of subjects into the educational curriculum. I therefore worked with teachers to identify ways to incorporate different aspects of climate change across the curriculum, beyond the sciences.”

### Latin American Studies Field Research Clinic February 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2013



*Core MDP Faculty member, Dr. Grenville Barnes*

The clinic showcased field research results from graduate students who were recipients of 2012 Field Research Grants. The session included student-focused discussions on their fieldwork experience. Several MDP students also displayed their field practicum posters.



*MDP Student Marliz Arteaga Gomez-Garcia discusses her Field Practicum Project*

It was a venue to learn about and support the research of UF graduate students whose work encompasses a broad array of disciplines and topics in Latin America and Africa.

### Tropical Conservation and Development (TCD) Student Group

MDP students continue to carry out important roles in the TCD Student Group. TCD Student Group officers for academic year 2012-13 included MDP students Sydney Nilan (President), Hans Goertz (Secretary) and Dave Pittman (Steering Committee Representative).



### Conservation and Development Forum: Presentation by Indah Bong

Friday, April 5th

**Theme: Community Based Natural Resource Management in Asia: case studies and perspectives for the future**

Tropical Asia is one of the world's most challenging and rewarding regions for working in conservation and development issues. The focus of this forum was the human dimensions of this work, especially how communities relate to their natural resource base.

The goal of the CDF is to expose students to a more informal space for discussion that builds upon first-hand experiences. In this case, the forum consisted of short presentations given by Dr. Rick Stepp (Anthropology), Indah Bong (MDP), Bhuwan Dakal (Tourism), and Divya Vasudev and Varun Goswami (Wildlife Ecology and Conservation).



### Taste of the Tropics

April 6th, at 7pm

The annual fundraiser for TCD was a bit hit once again. Chef volunteers provided an assortment of delicious foods from all around the tropics. The Top Chefs were awarded wonderful prizes from our local business supporters. Amazing food, drinks and dancing made it a memorable and successful evening.



## Students News

### MDP Volleyball Team



After playing flag-football in the Fall semester, MDP students continued to display their sporting prowess by organizing a volleyball team to compete in the intramural league.

### Raina Zantout: Art Exhibition



Raina Zantout displayed photos from her recent travels in Southeast Asia in the Inter-Residence Hall Association (IRHA) gallery on campus. The series was titled “jumping” and featured shots of people in motion against the backdrop of monuments and nature. Raina has been an avid photographer for several years.

*MDP student Raina Zantout, left, shows her photos to MDP student Taryn Devereu*

### Dan Stirling: Ethnoecology Society



MDP Student Dan Stirling served as president for the Ethnoecology Society this year. The student-run group maintains a garden of tropical and sub-tropical fruits and vegetables on Southwest campus. They are also engaged in a number of outreach programs to introduce members of the Gainesville community to organic gardening.



Last November, the group hosted a visit from children in the Big Brothers/Big Sisters program. The children had the opportunity to roll up their sleeves, get their hands dirty and plant some veggies in the garden.

*Dan Stirling also plays percussion and guitar at the Ethnoecology garden gatherings.*



## Students News

### Winter break travels

MDP Students took advantage of the winter break before Spring to explore new parts of the U.S., reconnect with friends and family in Central America and travel to former Peace Corps sites in Mozambique and Zambia.



See the full photo album from their travels on the [University of Florida MDP Facebook](#) page.

*Hans Goertz holds up a batique of the Mozambican flag with the artist at the craft fair in Maputo, Mozambique*

## Alumni Updates

### Kristen Augustine, MDP Alumni 2012

Certificate in Women and Gender Studies

Certificate in Tropical Conservation and Development

**Coordinator, MEAS Social Capital Project, UF International Center**



Kristen Augustine is now employed full-time with the University of Florida's International Center where, in addition to working in research and administrative support roles, she also holds the position of Project Coordinator for a USAID funded project. The project, titled: [Extension and Advisory Service Delivery for Women's Groups in Jordan: Assessing Competencies and Building Social Capital](#), evolved out of gender analysis work done under the supervision of Dr. Sandra Russo for the *Water and Livelihoods Initiative* (WLI). Building on qualitative data from this project, Kristen then co-authored a grant proposal to the USAID-funded Modernizing Extension and Advisory Services program to explore the potential of building, and then leveraging, women's social capital and networks so they can make better use of extension information.

## Alumni Updates

In October the project was funded and Kristen took on the position of Project Coordinator where she is responsible for overseeing a great team, assigning tasks and scheduling regular meetings to ensure that everything is completed on time. In addition to tracking deliverables and reporting to the donor, Kristen also assists with the creation of quantitative and qualitative survey tools including a Social Network Analysis instrument that she designed for the project. These tools will allow the team to measure the social capital and networks of members of three women's cooperatives in Jordan. This will be done while the women participate in trainings designed to build skills that, in addition to helping them personally, are also important for the success of their cooperatives. Highlighting methods that increase social capital, Kristen and the project team, with the guidance of their field partner, are also creating training modules to allow extension agents to hold workshops with women in similar cultural contexts elsewhere in the Middle East.

In June, Kristen will travel to Washington, DC to present the initial findings of the research to a symposium organized by the donor. Future field visits, including an upcoming trip in June 2013 with Suni Brito, an incoming MDP student, will allow team members to observe the trainings, conduct focus group discussions, and take part in the collection of final assessment data through questionnaires and social networking mapping.

When this project ends, Kristen hopes to continue working on issues related to gender in the context of international development.



### Jennifer Carr, MDP Alumni 2012

**Certificate in Tropical Conservation and Development**  
**Specialization in Ecotourism and Agroforestry**

**Director, Sarapiquí Conservation Learning Center, Costa Rica**



Seven months after receiving my Master of Sustainable Development Practice degree from the University of Florida I was offered an amazing opportunity to be director of the [Sarapiquí Conservation Learning Center](#) in Costa Rica. The Sarapiquí Conservation Learning Center started as a small library in 1993 and now has 501c3 Non Profit status. We focus our efforts in four areas — environmental education, community development, conservation, and tourism. Our vision is to help form future environmental leaders, raise the organizational capacity of local communities, promote sustainable land use, and connect tourists and volunteers to the local community.

## Alumni Updates

Our programs are run by international volunteers and community members who serve hundreds of local people and thousands of ecotourists each year. These programs include environmental education/after school program, rural tourism activities, English classes, community outreach, reforestation projects, women's group, and scholarship funds for high school students/youth group. Four months on the job and I have learned so much about the challenges of bringing vision and structure to these ongoing programs while seeking to bring in dedicated people.

Our target community is called Chilamate. Although it is the oldest of our target communities, many of its inhabitants complain that there is not much of a sense of community. My biggest goal for the center is to implement a strategic planning process as a way to strengthen the center and its role in community empowerment.

We hope to build relationships with university programs such as the MDP program to help us gain input from the local population and build a sense of community around the center.

We would love to have MDP students develop their projects in collaboration with the Sarapiquí Conservation Learning Center.



Feel free to contact us and visit our website: <http://www.learningcentercostarica.org>.