



THE GRADUATE PROGRAM IN  
INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL  
ECONOMY & DEVELOPMENT

FORDHAM UNIVERSITY

# BEYOND BORDERS

Reports from IPED's International Peace and  
Development Fellows

VOLUME 8 • SUMMER 2015

[iped.fordham.edu](http://iped.fordham.edu)

## FORDHAM|IPED

Fordham University's graduate program in International Political Economy and Development trains graduate students in the advanced interdisciplinary analysis of global economic relations and international development issues. Graduates frequently pursue professional careers in international finance and banking, international economic policy, and in international relief and development.

*Beyond Borders* shares the experiences of IPED students who had undergone internships with the Catholic Relief Services (CRS). Over the course of the summer, interns are assigned to the development projects of CRS abroad where they gain invaluable experience in international relief, humanitarian aid and development.

## Editorial Board

**Jordan Radovan**  
Editor and Designer

**John Mulqueen**  
**Sean Kenney**  
Contributors

**Dr. Henry Schwalbenberg**  
IPED Program Director  
Tel. 718.817.4064  
Email: [ipedjournal@fordham.edu](mailto:ipedjournal@fordham.edu)  
[iped.fordham.edu](http://iped.fordham.edu)



## Sarah Weber: Catholic Relief Services (IPED 2005)



On March 4, 2015, Sarah Weber, a graduate of the International Political Economy and Development program (IPED), received the 2015 Swanstrom-Baerwald Award for Excellence in a special ceremony in Keating Hall attended by professors, alumni, and students. The award is given every two years to members of the Fordham community who demonstrate a strong commitment to the service of faith through the promotion of international peace and justice.

The award ceremony was attended by distinguished guests. The program commenced with a prayer led by Archbishop Bernadito Auza, the Vatican Ambassador to the United Nations. Fordham University President Joseph M. McShane, SJ provided welcome remarks. Timothy Cardinal Dolan, past chair of the Board of Catholic Relief Services (CRS) and current Archbishop of New

York conferred the Award on Sarah Weber. The program ended with closing remarks from Ms. Michele Broemmelsiek, CRS' Executive Vice President for Overseas Operations.

Sarah received her BA in Environmental Studies from Sarah Lawrence College in 1997. After her undergraduate studies, she won a Fulbright Fellowship to conduct independent research on environmental community development in Botswana. In 2001, Sarah joined the Peace Corps in Cote d'Ivoire where she advised local government on sanitation, HIV/AIDS education and initiatives.

In 2003, Sarah joined the IPED program as an Arrupe Fellow. During the summer of 2004, she interned with Trickle Up, a non-profit microfinance organization in Timbuktu, Mali. For the past decade, Sarah has

*Continued on page 4*

## Sean Kenney: CRS Uganda

CRS has been active in Uganda since 1965 and works in the program areas of Peacebuilding, Emergency Relief, Health, and Agriculture. I have had the privilege of supporting various program staff with project reporting, M&E assessments, and various business development tasks. In particular, I have focused on closeout activities for an Emergency Water, Hygiene, and Sanitation (WASH) project with refugees from South Sudan.

The ongoing conflict in South Sudan has driven more than 100,000 refugees across Uganda's northern border to seek refuge in settlement camps. In the arid northern districts water shortage is a severe problem that was further induced by the burgeoning refugee population. I spent a month in the field collaborating with a CRS consultant and Caritas staff to design, implement, and analyze a comprehensive household survey for the Emergency WASH final project evaluation. Additionally, we collected qualitative data on constructed water points and the water user committees empowered by the project. I certainly gained a greater appreciation for the logistical and cultural complexities of data collection in the field. The evaluation findings were presented at an inter-agency WASH workshop to critically reflect on project activities and outcomes, discuss successful strategies with other implementing partners, and identify areas for future improvement and learning.

I have learned a great deal about the challenging dynamics of emergency relief aid. In a



fluid humanitarian crisis, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees and the Office of the Prime Minister have a tremendous task of assessing the amount of need and coordinating dozens of responding NGOs. In the case of WASH, as more NGOs responded to the humanitarian crisis, the allocated target household population for CRS' project became smaller and contributed to an over-procurement of project materials. At the end of the project, this left some unused materials and strained the relationship with the implementing partner. Despite the challenges, I have enjoyed the fast-past often unpredictable nature of emergency relief.

My colleagues and supervisor are a tremendous source of support and learning. I eat lunch with colleagues in a local restaurant known as "the shack" and utilize the time to converse with different program quality (PQ) and management quality (MQ)

staff members to get a better understanding of their work. My colleagues' willingness to field my questions is providing me a good picture of the country program and CRS' operations from the perspective of the national staff.

My day-to-day internship experience is constantly reminding me that "lasting and positive change" is predicated on relationships. Technical and operational expertise and achievements move programs forward, but it is relationships that tie everything - PQ and MQ, field and office, donor and beneficiary, NGO and government - together for integral human development to take shape. I am also reminded of this outside of work in my interactions with people in the neighborhood, local market, and parish community. It is certainly an exciting time to be in Uganda and I am grateful for the learning the internship continues to afford me.

## John Mulqueen: CRS Lesotho



*John Mulqueen (second from the right) with a farming association in Lesotho*

The CRS Lesotho country program works to improve food security, agriculture, health and early childhood development. While working in Lesotho, I had the opportunity to assist the monitoring and evaluation (M&E) team develop project proposals, monitoring and survey tools for baseline and end of project evaluations, as well as analyze the collected data for interpretation and contextualization in order to develop reports for donors and beneficiaries.

Specifically, during my time here I had helped draft a proposal to UNICEF for a project that promotes the formation of Savings and Internal Lending Communities (SILC), child well-being days, which allowed for vaccinations and the delivery of health services to children under 5 in remote areas of the country, and the construction of keyhole gardens, which are structures that allow for more efficient and productive homestead gardening practices. I have also designed a

baseline questionnaire to be administered to hundreds of households in order to set the benchmark for the project.

Beyond that, I had conducted end of project evaluations for a rural microfinance initiative funded by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), as well as for a conservation agriculture project that was funded by the USAID Office of US Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA). These surveys and analyses required me to make heavy use of what I had learned in my Econometrics and Community Economic Development classes with Dr. Mani. The skills I had acquired in Dr. Schwalbenberg's Proposal Development class, and of course, the Monitoring and Evaluation class in the Philippines were also invaluable.

At the time that I am writing this, our office has embarked on a new project to help improve literacy and educational outcomes for blind children at a

nearby school for the disabled. It is incredibly rewarding to take part in this process, as these children have been typically neglected. Working with CRS has helped to renew my conviction to work in international development and tackle some of the greatest challenges that the poor currently face.

I am deeply grateful to IPED for equipping me with the tools needed to effectively meet the demands of my office here and for providing me the opportunity to gain such valuable experience in a country office with CRS. I am also fortunate to work in a CRS office that recently hosted two IPED alumni. Much of the work that I've done has built on proposals, surveys and concept notes that were put together by Matt Protacio and Laura Groggel and I'm grateful for the detailed groundwork that they laid before me.

### **International Peace and Development Scholarship**

All matriculated IPED students in good academic standing are invited to apply for IPED's International Peace & Development Travel Scholarships. Up to four are offered each year. Scholarship recipients spend six months at the conclusion of their studies working overseas with an international non-profit relief and development agency.

For Spring 2015, these travel scholarships were in partnerships with Catholic Relief Services. Students were assigned to Uganda and Lesotho.

**(continued from page 1)**

worked for CRS on projects devoted to emergency food-aid, and has recently procured and managed a \$100 million Global Fund portfolio to fight malaria. She has worked in Ghana, post-conflict Liberia, and in Benin.

During the Swanstrom-Baerwald Awards Ceremony, Sarah was honored for her accomplishments with CRS, and her ability to raise grants which have funded the large scale distribution of insecticide-treated mosquito nets in Africa to protect families from malaria. Her body of work has placed emphasis on the significance of global health crisis management and highlighted the role of faith-based organizations in creating solutions for local humanitarian and development issues.

In an interview with 'Beyond Borders,' Sarah shared that her knowledge of Political Economy and Development allowed her to gain an insight on both the macro and micro factors that are driving the need for humanitarian assistance and the impediments that are preventing people in the developing communities from making better choices



*From left, Henry Schwalbenberg, Archbishop Bernadito Auza, Cardinal Timothy Dolan, Sarah Weber, Michelle Broemmelsiek, and Joseph McShane, SJ (PHOTO BY DANA MAXSON)*

es for their well-being.

Sarah mentioned that to be successful in an organization like CRS, a deep understanding of project management is necessary. Students who are looking to apply for internships and career opportunities with CRS often assume that a certain level of technical knowledge, or field specialization, is required. However, according to Sarah, these things can be learned while working in the field. Project management skills are crucial to gain the un-

derstanding and the ability to have an immediate impact on the project. Sarah thinks that courses in project management will be very helpful for IPED students who plan to have careers in development and humanitarian assistance. She adds that the course can be enhanced by allowing students to share their insights on different project designs they encountered through their internships or previous job experiences.

