What is SAC?
SAC is the Student Advisory Council for the Great Plains IDEA Community Development program. Made up of existing students, the SAC is an excellent resource for all students. Whether you have a question or simply need advice, the SAC will be available to assist you. SAC tries to get in touch with new students to offer guidance, particularly in the areas of time management and curriculum. Ultimately, their goal is to help you get the most out of your experience in the program.

Students in this program come from various backgrounds and locales. Having a class full of students from several different states, provinces, and countries is commonplace. A few of our own SAC members share their stories!

Satosha Itomi is a graduate student in the school of Agriculture and Life Sciences at Iowa State University. Her interest in the field of Community Development derives from her background in Business, Family & Consumer Sciences and the Arts. The knowledge that she gains in Community Development, her life study, will be applied to building a sustainable eco-community in Northern Florida.

In addition to her academic and professional interests, Satosa is a mother, an avid gardener, and an accomplished artisan whose expertise includes sewing and textile arts, ceramics, music and the graphic arts. She is grateful that she has been able to find time to have such rich experiences in her life including her current participation as a student at Iowa State University and member of the Student Advisory Committee (SAC).

Aaron Lander graduated in 2009 from Drake University. He came into the program with a background in Politics and Psychology, to which he attributes...
Continued, SAC

most of his success in the Community Development program. His interests lie in natural resource management and building sustainable communities. Currently, Aaron is involved in many efforts in the Des Moines area to help build sustainable communities including the Community Garden Coalition and other environmental organizations, where he integrates the Community Development curriculum to produce effective results.

Wendy Young is a graduate student in the Community Development Program, matriculating at Iowa State University. She recently moved from Unalakleet, Alaska, where she lived with her husband and adopted daughter, an Inupiaq from Barrow, Alaska.

Wendy and her husband both grew up in rural areas, Wendy from Montana and her husband from Wyoming. Both have been dedicated to social and economic justice issues in these states and now in Alaska. Living in the rural area of the Alaskan bush did not offer Wendy a lot of opportunities to pursue her master’s degree, which is why she was drawn to an online program, “This program is a brilliant idea. It addresses the problem of outmigration of educated professionals from rural communities into large urban centers to pursue their education.”

Wendy has already been using her coursework to forward her work in community development, “Because of my graduate work with ISU, I was able to participate in an interesting research project done for the Kellogg and Rasmussen Foundation by RTI, a scientific research development institution. The project focused on an innovative dental aide program, piloted by Alaska in order to provide dental care in the bush.”

As far as providing advice to potential and new students, Wendy goes with the old adage, “you get out of it what you put into it.” She says that online students have to be very independent, and it’s important to “use the program to further your own goals and interests. Do research, publish papers, and apply for grants to enhance your own ideas. There are many opportunities for graduate students out there and people are willing to help you, but they will not hold your hand. You must take the initiative.”

SAC Connection
Feel free to contact anyone on the Student Advisory Council with any questions, concerns, or suggestions you may have about the Community Development Program.

- Wendy Young, ISU
  wyoung@riseup.net
- Aaron Lander, ISU
  alander09@gmail.com
- Lisa Atkinson, KSU
  latkinson@yahoo.com
- Satosa Itomi, ISU
  satosa.itomi@gmail.com
- Abbie Gaffey, ISU
  agaffey@iastate.edu

Wendy says she was drawn to ISU because of the work Cornelia Flora has done domestically and internationally, “I am particularly interested in agroecology and its effect on community economic development.”
Announcements

- **GP IDEA Annual Meeting** to be held April 14-15 in Kansas City, MO at Marriott Country Club Plaza.

- **For students based in South Dakota**, there is a graduate research opportunity in conjunction with a Community Read project, based on rural community assessment of educational focus and high school student outcomes through the life course. Community members participate in reading and discussion of Carr and Kefalas’ *Hollowing Out the Middle*. Research tasks include: data entry from community survey, conducting and transcribing community participant interviews. This has great potential to comprise the data content of the research paper and/or thesis completion. Student need not be based in Brookings, but must be able to travel to at least 10 SD communities throughout the year of 2011. Please contact: meredith.redlin@sdstate.edu if interested.

- **Student Information System**: We are trying a new system to better track student interest in courses and to learn more about our growing student body. Please fill out the survey form at: http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/VK8V5F5

- **Wanted: Articles for the Newsletter.** We want to get back to the monthly schedule and could use help with copy. If you have something that would interest students and faculty, please send it to memery@iastate.edu, gary.goreham@ndsu.edu, or tiamthomas@gmail.com

- **Leadership Opportunity**: Some of our Student Advisory Council members have graduated or are scheduled to graduate. If you are interested in participating, please contact memery@iastate.edu

- **Opportunity to Participate in the Community Capitals Institute: Ames. October 10 and 11.** A call for participation will be out in the spring. Consider submitted a proposal to participate and/or signing up for special topics credit to learn more about using the CCF in a community context.

- **Opportunity to Participate in CDS Conference, Boise, ID July 29-31**
  Reminder that that the call for participation for the 2011 joint Community Development Society/Rural Sociological Society meeting is open. This year’s theme is Reshaping Rural American in an Urban Society: Innovative Approaches for Community Change. CDS is happy to announce that due to the generous contributions of its members and supporters, the CDS Endowment Fund will distribute three scholarships in 2011 to CDS members and student members presenting at the CDS Annual International Conference. The extended deadline for scholarship applications is February 15, 2011. If you would like further information please contact Sharon Gulick at the University of Missouri Extension 222 Gentry Hall Columbia, Missouri 65211 Fax: 573-882-5127 There is a call for papers to be presented at the conference. Deadline for submission of abstracts has been extended to February 15, 2011. If you would like more information on submitting a paper please go to http://www.comm-dev.org/ for full submission guidelines. Come and join your peers as they share knowledge and learn from each other at this year’s conference. A limited number of scholarships are available. Students may also register for special topics credit to participate in these and similar conferences.
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Publication Information

This newsletter is published by North Dakota State University. For more information about this newsletter, to offer suggestions, or to provide material to include in an issue, please contact Tia Thomas at tia.thomas@ndsu.edu