Back on Campus

International Development
(Offered as part of the CSID International Development Week)
25 February 2015

Room 706,
Sir Duncan Rice Library

www.abdn.ac.uk/backoncampus
Back on Campus  
International Development  
Wednesday 25 February 2015

10.00 – 11.00  Welcome and Working in International Development: Lessons Learned, Current Challenges and Opportunities  
Dr Hilary Homans - Director, Centre for Sustainable International Development  
Hilary is Director of the Centre for Sustainable International Development (CSID) at the University of Aberdeen. Hilary has been working in international development since 1987 of which 13 years were for DfID and 13 for the UN. She has a strong commitment to poverty alleviation, reducing inequity and promoting social inclusion.

11.00 – 12.00  Diplomacy and International Development; the Highs and Lows of international Careers  
Frances Guy - Head of Middle East, Christian Aid  
Former British Ambassador to Lebanon and Yemen, now working for Christian Aid after spending some time with the UN in Baghdad, Frances will draw some lessons about career paths into international development and where you can make a difference.

12.00 – 13.00  From the University of Aberdeen to INGO (or the story of tango lessons in 6 countries)  
Ali MacLeod - Director, Fundraising and Marketing, Mercy Corps  
Ali has worked for national and international organisations based in the UK and overseas, with travel to many programmes around the world. As European Director of Fundraising and Marketing for leading INGO Mercy Corps a typical week for Ali will include working with colleagues from Syria to Ukraine, Colombia to the Central African Republic, and South Sudan to Myanmar. Active in over 40 of the world’s toughest places Mercy Corps’ network of over 4,000 staff respond to natural disaster, political turmoil or economic collapse to provide immediate relief, build towards recovery and work to create resilience. There is never a dull day. There can be few sectors more frustrating or rewarding. How can you get involved? Ali will talk about her career path, opportunities/decisions, and highlight that there are lots of ways into Development beyond the traditional.

13.00 – 14.00  Break

14.00 – 15.00  An insight into a Career in the Ethical Trade  
Catherine Dishington - Ethical Trading Officer, The Co-operative Food  
Catherine will speak about her career path since leaving Aberdeen, and what led to her work in the ‘Ethical Trade’ sector, presenting particular projects and pieces of work in which she has been involved.

15.00 – 16.00  Challenges and Opportunities in Achieving Business Sustainability in the Developed World: The Efficiency Paradox  
Sabrina Andrei – Junior Energy Data Analyst, Minimise Solutions  
Diogo Guia - Junior Sustainability Consultant, Minimise Solutions  
Sabrina and Diogo’s opportunity to work at Minimise Solutions came as the result of an inspiring speech during last year’s Back on Campus - International Development event. The efficiency paradox states that the more efficient we become, the more we consume. What this hints to is the need to critically assess our current patterns of behaviour and address the challenges that we face by turning them into opportunities to create a more sustainable world for future generations.

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Sabrina Andrei, MA(Hons) Economics and Management Studies (2014)  
Junior Energy Data Analyst, Minimise Solutions  
Sabrina graduated from University of Aberdeen last year with a degree in Economics and Management Studies and started working for a sustainability consultancy startup in Central London no more than a week after her graduation ceremony in July 2014. Sabrina was always passionate about nature and the environment and believes that the earth should be considered something sacred in all religions. Sabrina strongly believes that no matter how hard the developed world tries to promote sustainable development in the developing countries, the more resourceful part of the world should primarily make use of its ‘abundant’ resources ethically and efficiently and then advise on the actions of others. Working for Minimise I learned that company-clients can be very challenging when it comes to energy sustainability and a general mind shift is urgently needed in order to allow for significant change to take place on a larger scale.

Catherine Dishington, MA(Hons) Politics and International Relations (2003)  
Ethical Trading Officer, The Co-operative Food  
Following graduation and some time out to travel, Catherine worked for Aberdeen City Council’s Waste Aware team from 2005, and from this role built the knowledge to move into a role working on a wider sustainability remit with the National Union of Students’ purchasing consortium in 2007; supporting Fairtrade, animal welfare and environmental sustainability projects, managing constructive engagement with key brands and monitoring suppliers on workplace standards and environmental KPIs. Catherine joined the Co-operative Food Ethical Trade Team in 2011 as Ethical Trade Officer, focussing on improving working conditions in the food supply chain. Her current role involves ensuring Co-operative Food suppliers meet minimum ethical trade requirements, managing the ethical trade monitoring and audit programme for Co-operative Food suppliers as well as working with suppliers to address issues through one to one engagement, organising training and facilitating supplier forums.
Diogo Guia, MA(Hons) International Relations and Management Studies (2014)
Junior Sustainability Consultant, Minimise Solutions

Diogo graduated from the University of Aberdeen in 2014 with a degree in International Relations and Management Studies and quickly found himself working for a sustainability consultancy start-up in Central London. The opportunity to work at Minimise Solutions came as the result of an inspiring speech during last year’s Back on Campus - International Development event which questioned what it meant to be a sustainable business in the 21st century. As an international citizen, Diogo firmly believes that everyone is born equal and should have access to equal resources, education, opportunities and freedom to live a healthy and satisfying life. However this is not the case for the vast majority of the world’s population and Diogo came to the conclusion that there was no better way to address sustainable development than from the inside out. If the ‘world of big business’ was somehow at the source of the issue, then it could be where the solution begins. Diogo now believes that if we transform our behaviour and implement sustainability here in the developed world, the consequences will have a much greater and longer lasting impact on the rest of the world and could drive sustainable development for all.

Frances Guy, MA(Hons) Politics (1981)
Head of Middle East, Christian Aid

Frances is currently Head of Middle East region in Christian Aid, based in London. Between May 2012 and December 2014 she was UNWomen representative in Iraq, working for 2 years in Baghdad, and six months in Erbil, Iraqi-Kurdistan. Prior to that she was a member of Her Majesty's Diplomatic service and served as British Ambassador to Lebanon (2006 -2011) and to Yemen (2001 - 2004). She also served as UK representative to the Euromed committee in Brussels between 2004 -2006 and has worked in Sudan, Ethiopia and Thailand. She has three children and graduated from Aberdeen University with a degree in Political Studies in 1981.
Dr Hilary Homans
Director, Centre for Sustainable International Development

Hilary Homans began her career in international development when she was seconded by the British government (Department for International Development, DFID) to the Ministry of Health in Zimbabwe where she lived and worked for six years and was also Professor at the University of Zimbabwe. This was followed by DFID appointments in Tanzania (Health and Population Field Manager) and as Global Adviser on HIV, Sexual and Reproductive Health which involved being the lead negotiator for the United Kingdom on women’s health at the United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing (1994). In 1997 Hilary moved to Geneva to work with the World Health Organisation (WHO) and remained there for 13 years working with WHO, UNAIDS, UNDP, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF and the World Bank. She has extensive experience in monitoring and evaluation, strategic planning and policy formulation and developed several global and national strategies. In 2001 she was the WHO Emergency and Humanitarian Action Coordinator following the Gujarat earthquake. Hilary was the co-author of On the Frontline. This report reviewed a decade of progress towards the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) Resolution number 1803 and the report resulted in a new Resolution (no.1983) approved at the UNSC in June 2011. She undertook a further report in 2013 to assess the extent to which progress had been made in Asia and the Pacific, specifically in relation to gender-based violence and the role of uniformed personnel. Hilary has worked with 45 countries and is a founder member of two NGOs in the UK and Zimbabwe. She is the author/editor of five books, forty published papers and numerous technical reports for DFID and the UN and has developed distance education modules for staff in developing countries. In January 2010 Hilary was appointed Director of the Centre for Sustainable International Development at the University of Aberdeen where she teaches Sustainable International Development to undergraduate and is developing a massive on-line open access course on the same topic. She is actively involved in discussions about the post-2015 Sustainable Development agenda and the Centre is now a member of the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network.

Ali MacLeod, MA(Hons), Politics and International Relations (2002)
Director, Fundraising and Marketing, Mercy Corps

As Director of Fundraising and Marketing, Ali oversees the work of Mercy Corps European Fundraising and Marketing team. Mercy Corps is a leading global humanitarian agency saving and improving lives in the world’s toughest places. Poverty. Conflict. Disaster. In more than 40 countries, Mercy Corps partners with local people to put bold ideas into action, help them overcome adversity, and build stronger communities. Now, and for the future. A professional fundraiser since 2002, Ali’s career has included senior posts with major national and international charities, such as Macmillan Cancer Support, the Jordan Red Crescent and the British Red Cross, as well as leading universities in both the UK and overseas. Working across the fundraising spectrum Ali’s most recent work in the university sector included working for the University of Aberdeen’s Sixth Century Campaign and managing the fundraising activity of the University of Melbourne’s Faculty of Business and Economics, building towards the exciting public launch of the university’s historic and ambitious Believe campaign. Ali was excited to return to Scotland in 2013 as Director of Fundraising & Marketing for Mercy Corps Europe.

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The Co-Curriculum

What is it, and how can it work for you?
The co-curriculum is, in essence, an enhancement of your student experience. It’s about providing you with opportunities, such as work placements and study abroad that will enhance your transferable skills and give you an edge in the graduate market.

STAR Award
The STAR (Students Taking Active Roles) Award is organised by the University’s Careers Service. This initiative rewards the contribution that many students make to the wider University community by recognising the transferable skills and competencies that you develop during a volunteering role. These skills can really enhance your employability.

Please visit: http://www.abdn.ac.uk/careers/skills-attributes/star-award

Work Experience Placements
The Careers Service’s Work Placement Team sources a range of placements for penultimate year undergraduates. In 2013 we were named “Placement of the Year [Public Sector]” by the National Council for Work Experience. We aim to help you find and apply for positions that will benefit your degree studies. We also provide support while you are in your placement.

Please visit: http://www.abdn.ac.uk/careers/jobs-work-experience/vacation-work-internships-placements

Study Abroad
The University actively encourages students to undertake a period of study abroad as part of their degree programme, and a wide range of opportunities exist within our Erasmus programme, which boasts 150+ links with universities across Europe, and our International Exchange Programme where partnerships exist with universities in North America and Asia.

Please visit: http://www.abdn.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/study-abroad-and-exchanges

Career Mentoring
The University’s Career Mentoring Programme is offered jointly by the Careers Service and the Alumni Relations Team. All current undergraduate and taught postgraduate students are welcome to apply. Mentoring is a great way to receive relevant careers advice and support by meeting with a working professional, who can offer a fresh perspective on your talents and how you can build on them. Your mentor is able to provide you with the benefit of their experience in a particular profession or employment area, giving you an insight into the wider knowledge and skills you will need to succeed.

Please visit: http://www.abdn.ac.uk/careers/skills-attributes/career-mentoring

Enterprise and Entrepreneurship
The Careers Service is aware of the importance to graduate employers of an enterprising attitude within business and the additional desire of many students to create their own businesses. We work closely with external agencies, such as the Scottish Institute for Enterprise (SIE) and Scotland UnLtd, to promote opportunities for all students across the campus.

Please visit: http://www.abdn.ac.uk/careers/skills-attributes/enterprise-entrepreneurship

BP Student Tutoring
The BP Student Tutoring Scheme is a volunteering initiative that lets you try something you might not otherwise have the opportunity to do. Students volunteer in local primary and secondary schools in Aberdeen city and shire, working alongside the class teacher for one half-day per week for eight weeks. Student tutoring demonstrates to employers that you are keen to take the initiative, to contribute to the next generation and to work with the wider community outside University.

Please visit: http://www.abdn.ac.uk/careers/skills-attributes/bp-student-tutoring-scheme

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