Dear Friends and Colleagues of the IEDP,

With the year drawing to a close, members of the IEDP cohort have been caught up with final projects and papers, even as the word "Internship" hovers in the air. As more of us receive confirmation on our placements for the summer, IEDP students are revving up to buy plane tickets and begin our work overseas!

In the meantime, we have finished policy briefs (hurray!) and are looking forward to the final lineup of esteemed speakers. This week, Nicholas Burnett of the Results for Development Institute (R4D) will be speaking on the fostering of innovation in education. On April 30th, we are pleased to announce the arrival of bestselling author and leader in global development, Jeffrey Sachs of the Earth Institute at Columbia University. (For more details on the logistics for these speakers, please see the sidebar.)

Below, we're delighted to highlight a previous IEDP Lecture Series speaker, Dr. Carol McLaughlin, and the Alumni Interest for this month, Julie Casper. See also the update about the MOOCs for Development conference, which was hosted by Penn. As always, you can keep apprised of our doings on Twitter and our other social media websites.
We thank you for reading and hope you enjoy. Please keep an eye out for our final update on graduations, coming out in early May.

Warm Regards from Philadelphia,

Kara Doriani and Adam Saks
Co-Editors

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**MOOCs4D: Potential at the Bottom of the Pyramid**

April 10 - 11, 2014

The MOOCs4D International Invitational Conference was an amazing success that brought together over 100 scholars, policy makers, program officers, administrators, and technologists from the education and international development sectors. Plenaries included: the Advent of MOOCs, MOOCs and International Development, The Challenges MOOCs Face, and What is Next for MOOCs.

Conference presenters and attendees discussed the economics of MOOCs, open education resources, ownership, inclusion and access, and capacity building. While the conference may have brought questions rather than answers to the fore, this increased our understanding of the complex dynamics surrounding the future of MOOCs. We were stimulated to consider deliberate solutions and action plans that will enable MOOCs to serve the development needs of resource-poor communities of learners.

Please keep checking [www.moocs4d.org](http://www.moocs4d.org) to keep up-to-date on future moocs4d developments.

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**Twitter**

"It's springtime in Philly! [link]

"Generation TBD: War drives more than half of Syria's students from school, into 'black hole' [link]"

"Homegrown philanthropy: the rise of local giving in the south [link]

"RT @olavkjorven: The hopes, dreams & aspirations of Arab youth, across 16 countries - & for first time incl Palestine [link]

"Will a new government in India make a smart investment in an education system that will help close the skill gap? [link]

"RT @BID_Seguridad: Time for cities in Africa and Latin America to talk about citizen security. [link]

"@DanWagner_Philadelphia RT @TEDTalks: How your language changes the way you think: [link]"
Faculty Spotlight:
Dr. Carol McLaughlin

We are excited to feature Dr. Carol McLaughlin, Research Director and Founding Team Member at Penn’s Center for High Impact Philanthropy in the School of Social Policy and Practice. Dr. McLaughlin, an affiliated member of the IEDP faculty, is also a faculty member in the Perelman School of Medicine and a practicing HIV primary care and infectious disease physician at Penn Presbyterian Medical Center. The Center for High Impact Philanthropy focuses on achieving social impact and meaningful improvement in the lives of others by leveraging the best available evidence to evaluate cost and impact. Dr. McLaughlin’s journey to her current position started as an undergraduate during a one-week experiential learning trip to Haiti, she was struck by the knowledge of community members where she worked and began to question how to do true development work. She combined her interests in public health and development the next summer when she worked on water and sanitation issues in rural Mexico. These combined experiences led her to pursue a combined MD and Masters in Public Health (MPH), focusing on Global Health at Johns Hopkins University.

During her residency in Boston, Dr. McLaughlin combined training in pediatrics and internal medicine with community-based health and the treatment of infectious diseases through a tropical medical program in Peru. After that she came to Penn for a fellowship where she began to work on HIV and health access issues, including a project working with the health department on HIV testing acceptance in prenatal care by immigrant women in Philly. This drew her to study the connection between health disparities globally and within the United States. She was specifically interested in how to best deliver known proven health interventions to low-resource communities, but found that the study of implementation or delivery science was still in its infancy. The Center opened around that time and her research mentor told her

Jeffrey Sachs, Director
The Earth Institute, Columbia University
Wednesday, April 30, 2014
12:00-2:00pm
Silverstein Forum

Jeffrey D. Sachs is a world-renowned professor of economics, leader in sustainable development, senior UN advisor, bestselling author, and syndicated columnist whose monthly newspaper columns appear in more than 80 countries.*

*From http://jeffsachs.org/

Maha and Jiayue volunteering at the MOOCs4D Conference
about an open position in global public health at the Center that seemed to be a great fit for her interdisciplinary applied research interests.

Dr. McLaughlin enjoys that the Center is interdisciplinary, seeking to discover and promote the most-promising approaches and programs that address the biggest challenges in development and social change. The core question the Center asks is how to create social impact. Dr. McLaughlin believes if evidence-based and actionable guidance can get to donors, this can make a difference. She seeks to create a learning community by connecting donors with the best information from researchers, implementers, and other stakeholders. One of their recent publications, the Global Children's Health Toolkit, is a good example of this through its combination of community-based strategies and low-cost, effective tools to address preventable diseases.

Dr. McLaughlin sees health and education as deeply intertwined issues which can include the need for healthy development in the womb for early childhood learning, and connecting successful education strategies specifically to teaching health. She believes that holistic development programs that provide education and health together are more successful and impactful. She is currently teaching Global Health Policy & Delivery and will be teaching Issues in Global Health - Addressing Health Disparities in the fall, which considers disparities in food security, education, & human rights through an interdisciplinary approach to get all sectors to work together on achieving healthy communities.

Dr. McLaughlin's best advice to students is to keep an open mind and learn from the unlikely teachers. Obvious sources of advice such as university professors are often great mentors, but community members, development workers in the field and fellow students can also be valuable teachers. She also recommends reaching out to past and future classes to find mentors and to mentor others. Dr. McLaughlin takes a broad view of education, convicted that much of important learning happens beyond the classroom. She hopes that students will seek to understand the practice of delivery, whether they become educators, researchers, or practitioners.
I had the opportunity to intern with Un Buen Comienzo (UBC) in Santiago, Chile. UBC, which in Spanish translates as "A Good Start," is jointly administered by the Fundacion Educacional Oportunidad (located in Santiago, Chile) and Harvard University. UBC is an early childhood intervention program designed to intervene in three critical areas for early childhood development: health, socio-emotional development, and family participation in their child's education. The program works to "improve the quality of early childhood education in Chile, specifically focusing on children living in high-risk, socially vulnerable situations through an integrated, language-oriented approach, involving educators, families, and communities."

During my internship I collaborated in the evaluation of the quality of implementation study by contributing to and editing the evaluation rubric used by UBC coaches, and through writing a literature review on teacher-coach collaborative relationships. I also participated in various coaching sessions in classrooms both observing and filming the teacher-coach relationships, and used these videos in a final project showcasing some of the new evaluation items I established. In addition I assisted with a health and nutrition study by interviewing parents about their food practices, child's health, and food security. I also participated in the weekly UBC meetings and spent time collaborating with the coaches.

Following my 2011 graduation and internship with UBC, I stayed in Santiago and interned with UNESCO. I then returned to the US and spent time applying to doctoral programs while working for a special education nonprofit in Cambridge, MA. Now I am in my second year of a doctoral program in Early Childhood Education Policy at Teachers
College, Columbia University, where I am a graduate research fellow at the National Center for Children and Families. As a doctoral student, I have also had the opportunity to intern with UNICEF in NYC, and am currently consulting for the NYC Department of Education.

IEDP coursework helped me to expand my worldviews, progress as a critical thinker, and sharpen my analytical writing skills. My fieldwork and internship experience with UBC was very meaningful and propelled me towards my current doctoral work.