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The Dawn Dulhunty Story

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The Andrews University International Development Program (IDP) is a Master’s degree course of study that holds annual intensives in Chile, Japan, Canada, Italy, Ghana, Kenya, Rwanda and South Africa. Dawn Dulhunty, as the program director, and her husband, Paul, have committed their lives to the humanitarian mission of this program, essentially living out of a suitcase at least eight months of the year with a “home” base in Berrien Springs, Michigan, and another in Australia, their home country. Together, Dawn and Paul oversee the IDP student body, which exceeds 400 students representing 77 countries and approximately 180 organizations.

**DULHUNTYS’ MISSION DEFINES THEIR PROFESSIONS**

Dawn Maberly was born in a country town in Queensland, Australia. At two years old, her family voyaged by sea to India where they settled in Kalimpong, a hill station in the foothills of the Himalayan Mountains. Dawn’s father worked in health education and as a pastor with the Tibetan refugees. She often accompanied her father in his work. These experiences later became a guiding factor in Dawn’s decision to devote her life to humanitarian development and be a missionary for God.

In the early 1970s, Dawn met Paul Dulhunty, a fellow Australian and newly-baptized Christian who was working as an anaesthetic technician and surgical assistant at Sydney Adventist Hospital. Dawn soon completed her nursing qualifications; and in 1976, Paul, Dawn and their one-year-old son moved to Zambia, Africa, to be medical missionaries at Yuka Hospital and Leprosarium. It was an act of faith for this young family to trade the safety of life in Australia in exchange for long hours of hard work caring for the community in an African region, often isolated by monsoon floods and situated in a corridor of dangerous freedom fighter activity.

The Dulhunty family spent seven years in Zambia where Dawn provided community healthcare and nursing leadership at Yuka Hospital. Paul established the Seventh-day Adventist World Service (later Adventist Development and Relief Agency) for the Zambia Union.

In 1983, the Dulhunty family, which now included a daughter born in Zambia, returned to Australia after some members of the family contracted a water-borne infection. In 1986, Dawn and Paul founded the work of ADRA in Nepal. Paul was responsible for obtaining the necessary approval from the Nepal government for ADRA to be registered. Dawn became associate country director of ADRA Nepal, where she and Paul started a volunteer program that flourished under their vision. The Dulhunty’s work resulted in many life-changing experiences for both the volunteers and the Nepalese people. Dawn played a pivotal role in developing literacy and community programs for Nepalese women and their families. After spending 12 years in Nepal, Dawn became the program director; and with ADRA, they helped coordinate one of the biggest emergency operations in post-war Kosovo.

**DAWN DULHUNTY TAKES LEADERSHIP OF THE IDP**

In 2000, while working for ADRA in Kosovo, Dawn completed her Master of Science in Administration from Andrews University, and was almost immediately invited...
Abraham Kur Achiek

BY BONNIE GREENE

Abraham Kur Achiek is a child protection officer with UNICEF South Sudan and a current student in the International Development Program at Andrews University. At the early age of 12, Abraham was thrust into the object of what would be his later passion and greatest concern. In 1987, following the devastation of his hometown by Civil War, Abraham was separated from his family by the Sudan People’s Liberation Army (SPLA). Placed in a refugee camp in Funyido, Ethiopia, Abraham received a primary education and military training to become a child soldier.

At the age of 16, Abraham experienced the collapse of the Ethiopian Regime and, as a result, the move of his refugee camp back to Sudan where it joined the SPLA. Following his involvement in warfare for three years, Abraham escaped and made his way to a refugee camp in Kenya. During his stay at this camp, he became a youth leader. Abraham oversaw all the youth from nine different nationalities until a sponsorship by the Africa Refugee Education Program enabled him to study in Nairobi.

Separated from his family since 1987, Abraham traveled to South Sudan, in 2004, in an attempt to reunite with his family. Tragically, he discovered his parents had been killed; however, he did find his little brother and two sisters.

Abraham was first led to the Andrews University International Development Program off-campus Master’s program through his involvement in child protection activities. With the aim of protecting children from violence, abuse, neglect and exploitation, Abraham felt the program Andrews offered would expand his influence, increase his achievements and give shape to his ideas concerning the livelihood of children.

Since 2007, Abraham’s role with UNICEF allows him to work on the demobilization, disarmament and the reintegretion of children who have been associated with armed groups. “By achieving my educational goals through Andrews, I will contribute to the improvement of the systems in my home country by imparting knowledge and skills,” observes Abraham. He continues to do just that by providing justice, support and education to the many children in need in the country of South Sudan.

Bonnie Greene is a student news writer in the Office of Integrated Marketing & Communication at Andrews University.
to become director of the IDP at Andrews University. “At that time, ADRA collaborated with Andrews from funding coming from USAID (United States Agency for International Development), which enabled ADRA’s upper level management to study for a Master’s degree in International Development. At the conclusion of the USAID grant, ADRA turned their focus to other projects while Andrews decided to continue growing the program,” said Dawn.

Under Dawn’s leadership, the program continued to grow and began to utilize the facilities of other Adventist institutions for the off-campus annual sessions. “Students used to meet for classes in four star hotel venues,” says Dawn. “When we came on, we were not satisfied that our own Adventist education institutions were not being used for this program. So we moved the program onto university campuses.”

The partnership has been a “plus-plus,” says Dawn for both the IDP and the hosting campus. “For example, in Kenya, due to Andrews University being connected to a university in Kenya, the indigenous university received a grant to build a community training and research center which is very successful in Kenya,” says Dawn.

THE ANDREWS UNIVERSITY INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

A typical student is in the program for a total of three to four years. Students meet annually for a three-week session and are required to attend a total of four sessions culminating in completing a significant research project.

“Our student body has changed from what it used to be. In the beginning, it was 100 percent ADRA students,” says Dawn. “Today, it is perhaps 30 percent ADRA, and now serves students from various humanitarian organizations including the United Nations, World Vision and the Red Cross, to name a few.”

Dawn is clearly quite passionate about her work. “It is exciting to work with humanitarian aid practitioners. These students come from backgrounds that most of us can never imagine. The skills and best practices obtained in this Master’s program give our students the vision to continue to advocate for positive change in their communities,” says Dawn. “We feel blessed and energized by these amazing students as we dialogue and listen to their stories.”

During her years as director of the IDP, Dawn learned time and again how valuable her life experiences were to leading this program. “Having been a humanitarian practitioner for many years, it has been exciting to advocate for our students in the world of academia in crafting a program where both education and career goals can be met for humanitarian practitioners. Often, students come to an intensive session concerned about dilemmas involving their work problems; and they find the instructors stimulating and networking with other students very thought-provoking. Then they go back to their organizations feeling refreshed with new vision and new excitement.”

The future of the IDP is for the courses and instructors to be always relevant, current with benchmarking skills in meeting the management needs of humanitarian aid practitioners. This program, in the spirit of Christ who identifies with the needs of the world, is for the students to “Seek Knowledge. Affirm Faith. Change the World.”

Keri Suarez is a media relations specialist in the Office of Integrated Marketing & Communication at Andrews University.

Paul and Dawn Dulhunty stand with a group of students in Africa.
Stella Mkiliwane

Stella Mkiliwane is a member of the minority Ndebele tribe in Zimbabwe. After being abducted and interrogated by security agents, she fled to South Africa. Soon after arriving in South Africa, Stella played a significant role in humanitarian relief protection that was offered in response to the wave of xenophobic outbreaks in 2008 where 100,000 families were displaced by violence.

“Going into the field every day and ensuring that everyone I met received the assistance they needed made me sleep soundly at night,” says Stella. “There is so much to be done to ensure people’s dignity is restored. The challenges in South Africa for refugees and asylum seekers have just gotten worse. I wouldn’t be anywhere else.”

Stella is now the director of operations for the Refugee Ministries Centre where she offers counseling to refugees and asylum seekers in Johannesburg. “For me, this service is a calling and a passion,” says Stella. In honor of her tireless service, Stella was awarded the prestigious Voices of Courage Award by the Women’s Refugee Commission on May 3.

Stella is pursuing her Master’s degree through the Andrews University International Development Program. During the 2011 IDP Summer Session at the University of Eastern Africa, Baraton, Kenya, Stella shared her story of trial and triumph with her peers and professors, encouraging them to be proactive in humanitarian endeavors. “There is much work and very little resources,” says Stella. “My wish is to see every refugee and asylum seeker empowered through accessing the proper documentation and services that will restore their dignity. I love this work, and I know God will provide a way for this work to continue. He is good!”

Dawn Dulhunty is director of the International Development Program at Andrews University.

IDP Sites

Intensives are offered at the following sites for International Development Program students.

**January:** Chile
Universidad Adventista de Chile (Spanish)

**February:** Japan
Aoyama Gakuin University (English)

**May:** Canada
Canadian University College (English)

**June:** Italy
Italian Adventist College, Villa Aurora (English)

**July:** Ghana
Valley View University (French and English)

**August:** Kenya
University of Eastern Africa, Baraton (English)

**October:** Rwanda
Adventist University of Central Africa (French and English)

**November:** South Africa
Helderberg College (English)

IDP offers a Master of Science in Administration with two emphases options. Most students pursue their MSA in International Development; others pursue their MSA in Organizational Leadership.

Effective with the 2012–2013 bulletin (which takes effect academically May 2012), the degree will be a Master of International Development Administration. The two emphases will remain the same. Those interested in more information about IDP and the intensives offered at the above sites may call 269-471-3668, fax 269-471-6937 or e-mail idp@andrews.edu.