IDS Alumni Newsletter Spring 2004

ALUMNI! NEWS FROM YOUR UNDERGRADUATE MAJOR AT MSU! THE THIRD EDITION OF THE IDS ALUMNI E-NEWSLETTER!

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PLEASE KEEP SENDING YOUR COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS. And, let us know about what's happening in "your corner of the world."

FRAN WILSON, PROGRAM ALUM, APPOINTED COMMANDANT OF THE INDUSTRIAL COLLEGE OF THE ARMED FORCES

Fran Wilson (Social Science, class of '71) was recently named Commandant, Industrial College of the Armed Forces (ICAF), National Defense University. She joined the Marine Corps in 1972 and has risen to the rank of Major General. Fran is the 36th Commandant of the college and is the senior woman in the Marine Corps. Since graduation from MSU, she has earned four master's degrees and holds a Doctor of Education degree from the University of Southern California. She and her husband Ed reside on Fort McNair, Washington, D.C. Fran's full official biography is posted on both the Marine Corps (www.usmc.mil <http://www.usmc.mil>) and NDU (www.ndu.edu <http://www.ndu.edu>) websites.

Congratulations, Fran!

VERN BOSS VISITS CAMPUS
With the assistance and encouragement of our dean, Dr. Marietta Baba, we are working on plans to bring an increasing number of distinguished IDS/MDP/Divisional Major alums to campus to speak with groups of students, faculty, and staff. In April, we invited the first of these - **Dr. Vern Boss** (Divisional Major, class of ’51) - to spend a day in East Lansing. Vern is a retired public school administrator, who held superintendent positions in the Dimondale, Northview, and Grandville, Michigan schools as well as the East Syracuse, New York schools. After retiring as a regional superintendent of schools (after 28 years in school administration), he has worked as a consultant to two Grand Rapids companies in the areas of human relations and management, and he has completed several research projects for the Michigan Department of Education. Vern spoke to several groups during his visit, including a class whose topic is "career decision-making for sophomores," and a group of IDS students who are pursuing teacher education/certification.

We had a great day! We look forward to welcoming many more alums back to campus to engage in interactive conversation with students, faculty and staff.

"CLASS NOTES" SECTION ADDED TO E-NEWSLETTER

As promised, we've started a Class Notes section. See the attachment.

So far, we've received a relatively small number of responses. We'd like to hear from you. We will post the information on our website and try to build up a fairly sizeable number of entries during the upcoming year.

If you're interested, please prepare a paragraph that we can share with others, including former classmates.

Thanks!

A LARGE GRADUATING CLASS

Our director, Dr. Assefa Mehretu, announced last week that one hundred sixty (160) IDS seniors are candidates for graduation at the end of Spring semester 2004. They will receive their Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) or Bachelor of Science (B.S.) degrees during the upcoming College of Social Science Commencement Ceremony.

Congratulations, graduates!

ANNUAL IDS STUDENT HONORS CEREMONY

On April 28, IDS held its second annual Student Honors Ceremony and Reception. Students, staff and several parents and friends were on hand to take part in the festivities. Those in attendance recognized and congratulated our Outstanding IDS Graduating Senior, our Outstanding IDS Evening Program Graduate, and the seventeen (17) IDS students who have been awarded major, undergraduate scholarships/fellowships. Students who are graduating with "high honor" (a grade point average of 3.8 and above) and students who are graduating with "honor" (a grade point average of 3.5 - 3.79) were also introduced and recognized. At the Spring Commencement Ceremony, fourteen (14) IDS students will graduate with "high honor" and thirty-eight (38) will graduate with "honor."
Nine (9) IDS seniors have been selected for inclusion in Who's Who in American Universities and Colleges for the 2003-04 academic year.

Congratulations to our IDS "high achievers!"

OUTSTANDING IDS SENIOR

Christie M. Arendt (Community Relations concentration, Political Science cognate) is our outstanding IDS senior for 2003-04. A member of the MSU Honors College, she has a grade point average of 3.9398. She is completing an additional major in political science and a university specialization in International Development. She will graduate with "high honor." Christie participated in a Study Abroad program (Netherlands and France) in the summer of 2003. In Spring semester 2003, she completed the Semester Study Program in Washington, D.C., which included an internship in the National Field Program of Amnesty International USA. Christie completed a senior honors thesis on the topic, "Human Rights in Rwanda - The Extent of the United States' Involvement - 2003." Christie's work experience has included two assignments in the Office of Governor Jennifer M. Granholm. A member of the National Society of Collegiate Scholars and the Golden Key International Honor Society, Christie has been the recipient of several major scholarships. These include the Burton Lee Gerber and Rosalie P. Gerber Scholarship, the College of Social Science Undergraduate Distinguished Scholarship, and the Phi Kappa Phi Academic Achievement Award. A recipient of the President's Student Service Award, a national award based on community service, Christie has been an active participant in a number of community action and community service activities. She was a volunteer in the Granholm for Governor Campaign, 2002; she served as a crisis intervention counselor for Safe Place Shelter for Abused Women; she worked on community development projects in El Salvador, English language instruction in Mexico, and construction projects in Mississippi as part of MSU's Alternative Spring Breaks, and she has served - for the past three years - as Coordinator of the Youth Council, St. John's Student Parish.

Our congratulations to Christie!

NEW IDS WEBSITE

We're in the process of developing a new website. It should be "up and running" by the end of June. We'll send an e-mail message at that point and encourage you to take a look and provide feedback (i.e., comments, suggestions).

IDS CONTINUES SERIES OF "CONVERSATIONS" WITH DISTINGUISHED MSU PROFESSORS

As reported in the Fall e-newsletter, IDS embarked upon this initiative - to invite select faculty from various departments/disciplines on campus to come and engage in discussion with our administrative and advising staff. The sessions provide an especially important opportunity for the IDS staff to stay well informed of developments in the various disciplines and sub-disciplines. Recent speakers have included:
Do you remember any of these folks? Some have been around campus for several years.

All for now. We hope you have a nice summer.

Note:

We continue to hear from alums who have made suggestions about how we might improve the e-newsletter. We'll be taking those suggestions to the next meeting of our Editorial Board and will hope to make some changes (i.e., to make the newsletter more user-friendly and visually appealing) for the Fall semester 2004 edition.

We have posted a copy of the current edition to our IDS website. The address is

www.cis-ss.msu.edu/cis/ids

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