IDD Alumni event - 'Dinner with a Dozen'

Posted on Tuesday 16th February 2010

'Dinner with a Dozen' is an idea that has come from the USA; the format of the evening is, usually, a dinner for a mix of 10-12 alumni, students and staff with no set agenda but a theme for conversation; the International Development Department (IDD) table focused on "Life beyond IDD... careers and employability". Sitting alongside nine other dinners from across the University, the IDD table enabled open and informal conversation between groups who wouldn't usually have the opportunity to meet with one another.

The dinner offered IDD alumni an opportunity to interact with current staff and students and share their experiences in terms of life at the University, entering the workplace and developing a career. It also presented an opportunity for the department to explore ways in which future alumni involvement could add value to academic programmes and student life within IDD. The value of the evening is best summarised by the guests:

Back row (left to right):

- Alumni: **Dominic Morris** - MA International Political Economy of Development, 2009
- Student: **James Connell** - MSc International Development
- Alumni: **Birte Snilstveit** - MA International Political Economy of Development, 2008
- Staff: **Robert Leurs (/staff/profiles/government-society/leurs-robert.aspx)** - International Development Department
- Alumni: **Gareth Wall (/schools/government-society/departments/international-development/alumni/profiles/wall-gareth.aspx)** - MSc Poverty Reduction and Development Management, 2007

Front row (left to right):

- Staff: **Heather Marquette (/staff/profiles/government-society/marquette-heather.aspx)** - Senior Lecturer in Governance, IDD
- Student: **Emma Flynn** - MSc International Development
- Student: **Nadia Krige** - MSc International Development
- Alumni: **Sarah Carruthers** - MSc Poverty Reduction and Development Management, 2006
- Alumni: **Mayumi Fuchi** - MSc Poverty Reduction and Development Management, 2006
- Staff: **Fiona Nunan (/staff/profiles/government-society/nunan-fiona.aspx)** - Lecturer in Environment and Development, IDD

Dinner with a Dozen comments

The value of the evening as an…

Alumnus

Dominic Morris, MA International Political Economy of Development, 2009

It was a pleasure to return to the university for the first time as an alumnus, and even more of a privilege since the event was a rare, yet ideal, combination of a social and professional occasion. This meant I was able to catch up with fellow alumni, departmental staff, make new acquaintances and discuss future business opportunities across a growing network of successful alumni.

Given IDD's global output of inherently capable students, it is perhaps surprising that until this point, I had not really appreciated the real potential of such an active approach to alumni networking. I am glad that I was given the opportunity to learn more about the network and play a small part in its further development.

I value the university's pro-active approach to what is ultimately an important tool in making the transition of graduates into the working world as painless as possible- whatever the financial climate.

Sarah Carruthers (2005-2006 MSc Poverty Reduction and Development Management - graduated Dec. 2006), **Gareth Wall** (2004-2006 MSc Poverty Reduction and Development Management - graduated Dec. 2006) **Heather Marquette.**

Nadia Krige (2009-2010 MSc International Development - not yet graduated) **James Connell** (2009-2010 MSc International Development - not yet graduated), **Emma Flynn** (2008-2009, MSc International Development - not yet graduated), **Fiona Nunan**.

The main event report can be found at: www.alumni.bham.ac.uk/events (http://www.alumni.bham.ac.uk/events/reportsgalleries/2010/DinnerwithaDozen.shtml)

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