

# Economic Development at Eastern



**EASTERN UNIVERSITY**

*faith • reason • justice*

1300 Eagle Road, St. Davids, PA 19087

[www.eastern.edu](http://www.eastern.edu)



# ***Making a Difference –***

College should be more than having fun, making friends, studying hard and earning honors. It should be about making a difference.

Eastern University's B.A. in Economic Development is designed for students who want to do more with their lives than getting a paycheck and making ends meet. It is for students who want to become ambassadors of hope to a world desperate for hope.



Hope is not something to take for granted. Global poverty and affluent apathy are equal opportunity destroyers of hope—afflicting both rich and poor. Hope is not built on wishful thinking and idealistic values; it requires both confidence and competence. It grows from mustard-seed faith into something that is bigger than ourselves; something that builds a foundation and leaves a legacy.

The B.A. in Economic Development builds on the experience that Eastern University faculty have gained in the 25-year history of the graduate Economic Development Program. The program is designed to prepare students for international work, focusing on community and economic development in developing countries.

The multidisciplinary curriculum addresses the importance of faith integration and features courses in community development, entrepreneurship, economic development, economic reasoning, international economics, and Christianity, anthropology and economic systems. The program concludes with a case-study-focused Development Studies Seminar that explores the role of dialogical and sustainable transformational development as a viable alternative to traditional development approaches.



# *Not Just Making the Grade*

Graduates with the B.A. in Economic Development can look forward to a wide range of career paths available to them, including working with relief and development agencies, pursuing social and community entrepreneurship initiatives, and continuing their work in development studies in graduate school. Some of these career options include the following:

- Aid Worker
- Microloan administrator/developer
- Community organizer
- Regional or urban planner
- Community education instructor
- Community health service developer/coordinator
- Grant proposal writer or fund raising specialist
- Financial manager for nonprofit organizations
- Low-income housing coordinator
- Environmental planner/researcher
- Social advocacy professional
- Legal assistance service coordinator
- Management analyst/consultant
- Social entrepreneur
- Christian outreach worker/missionary
- Small business consultant
- Logistics coordinator for relief and development agencies
- Resource and environmental policy researcher/analyst



International internships are available in the program, and students are strongly encouraged to take advantage of these opportunities.

If the Christian community is to fulfill its mission of being “like salt unto the earth,” becoming people of hope for the world at large, it will require something more than good theological ideas, a casual interest in the social sciences, or pursuing “business as usual” degrees. We live in extraordinary times, which require extraordinary commitment.

Eastern University, with its longstanding commitment to economic development and its core values of faith, reason, and justice, is looking for Christians with the faith and courage to become ambassadors of hope. Join us!

# Faculty Spotlight

*Dr. Lindy Backues (assistant professor of economic development) exemplifies the hope for transformation that we're about at Eastern. Having studied both psychology and theology, Lindy concluded that proclaiming the Good News of God's Kingdom requires more than understanding oneself. It calls for active engagement in the social and economic life of communities.*

*With this in mind, Lindy moved to Indonesia after his graduation from Asbury Theological Seminary in 1989 to work with poor Muslim communities. In 1992, he and his wife Donna joined Eastern's Economic Development Program to gain the tools that would help make their work even more effective. Upon completing the program, the Backueses returned to Indonesia to work on a number of development initiatives relating to community empowerment, microenterprise projects, and sustainable development.*

*Living in Indonesia for nearly two decades, with his wife Donna and two children Aubrey and Dhika, Lindy became convinced that authentic, transformational development requires both economic empowerment and living out the love of God. Neither spiritual platitudes nor community initiatives will suffice; God's shalom requires a holistic, integrated response. Amid doubt, hostility, and woefully inadequate resources, Lindy and Donna became agents of hope to the West Java, Indonesian communities they served because they dared to believe in the whole Gospel that encompasses the entirety of God's kingdom and proclamation of justice.*

*Lindy later pursued a Ph.D. at the University of Leeds in Britain, crafting a joint degree with their Department of Theology and the Centre for Development Studies. During the disastrous tsunami of Christmas 2004, he was actively engaged in the post-tsunami relief and development work with communities along the western coast of northern Sumatra.*





# The Faculty



**Dr. Jack Bower** (*associate professor of accounting*) has transformed the study and practice of accounting into nothing less than a genuine spiritual ministry. His book, *Accounting Through the Eyes of Faith*, emphasizes the relevance of the Bible for the accounting profession. He also has taken on numerous auditing assignments for nonprofits working in Haiti, Kenya and the U.S. He currently serves as treasurer of Norristown Ministries, Inc., a day-shelter for the homeless and as an elder of his church. Dr. Bower is the recipient of the 2004 Lindback Award for Excellence in Teaching.



**Dr. David Bronkema** (*associate professor of international development, Templeton Chair*) brings considerable development experience to Eastern's graduate and undergraduate programs. His development work has focused on peasant cooperatives and human rights initiatives in Honduras, concentrating on the role of religious faith in resolving political conflict and facilitating community-based empowerment. Before coming to Eastern, Dr. Bronkema served as the program coordinator for the Latin America and Caribbean Region with the American Friends Service Committee, overseeing and coordinating their initiatives on economic justice, peace building, and demilitarization.



**Prof. Tod Gilmore** (*lecturer of marketing*) brings over 25 years of business experience to the classroom, having served in senior business development positions with several Fortune 500 companies in the retail, manufacturing and service sectors. He is also the co-founder and vice president of Priority One Management Solutions, Inc., a management consulting practice focused on local and state government.



**Dr. Bret Kincaid** (*associate professor of political science*) came to Eastern after serving as the associate director of the American Studies Program in Washington, D.C., sponsored by the Council of Christian Colleges and Universities. He serves as the editor of the *Public Policy ePistle* of Evangelicals for Social Action and teaches the International Relations and Comparative Politics courses at Eastern. His current research focuses on the Middle East and the evolving relationship between Israel and the Palestinians.



**Prof. Robin Lowery (lecturer of accounting and finance)**

brings a wealth of experience as a Certified Public Accountant to the Economic Development Program. She has served in senior accounting capacities with for-profit and nonprofit organizations, as well as a national public accounting firm. She also serves as a board member of Arab World Ministries.



**Dr. Eloise Meneses (professor of anthropology)** has focused her work in development on marketplace interactions in South India, particularly on the economic roles of women. Having grown up in Bangalore, she has a deep knowledge of both the cultural and economic forces that have shaped India, and she is the author of *Love and Revolutions: Market Women and Social Change in*

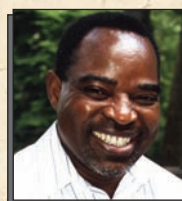
*India*, which examines the inextricable links between culture, faith and business.

Dr. Meneses has developed strong ties to the Mennonite Central Committee, a missions and development agency, through her service on their U.S. board.



**Dr. Betsy Morgan '65 (professor of English)** is the acting dean of Eastern's College of the Arts and Sciences and has worked extensively on gender and development issues, particularly in Latin America. She has written on the challenge of global poverty (*Global Poverty and Personal Responsibility*), and refugee resettlement issues (*Going Home: Building Peace*

*in El Salvador—The Story of Repatriation*). She has produced documentary films for Public Television on repatriation in El Salvador ("El Salvador: Portraits in a Revolution") and a follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing, winning a regional Emmy for the "Beyond Beijing: Women and Economic Justice." Her book, *Aeroplane Mirrors: Personal and Political Reflexivity in Post-Colonial Women's Novels*, was published as part of the Heinemann Press Studies in African Literature Series.



**Dr. Mike Mtika (associate professor of sociology)** worked as an agriculture and rural development officer for the Ministry of Agriculture in Malawi for eight years. He subsequently joined World Vision (Malawi) and worked for nearly six years in many roles including projects coordinator, technical services director, and operations/projects director. Since coming to Eastern, he

has spearheaded a community development initiative and is working on developing an Institute of Community Development in Malawi, his country of origin. His research has focused on the role of social capital in community development and how communities cope with the impact of the HIV/AIDS crisis.





**Dr. Connie Ostwald** (*associate professor of economic development*) teaches in Eastern's School of Leadership and Development. She has focused her work on the problems of inequality facing developing and newly industrialized countries, with a special focus on both Mexico and Ireland. Prior to joining Eastern's faculty, she was the coordinator of the Global Studies Program for Colorado Christian University and has also worked in international business.



**Dr. Al Socci** (*associate professor of business*) serves as the chair of the Department of Business and brings a wealth of entrepreneurial experience to the Economic Development Program. He is deeply engaged in promoting student entrepreneurship at Eastern through his work with SIFE (Students in Free Enterprise). Prior to coming to Eastern, Dr. Socci served as the chair of Eastern Nazarene's Department of Business and Economics and served as the associate dean and program director of their Center for Adult and Continuing Education.



**Dr. David Unander** (*professor of environmental studies*) teaches the natural science courses recommended for the Economic Development major. His areas of specialization include plant genetics and agricultural ecology. He has worked at the University of Puerto Rico and the Fox Chase Cancer Center in Philadelphia. Dr. Unander has been involved in many study abroad initiatives, including the Tropical Agriculture and Missions course through the Au Sable Institute and ECHO, based in southern Florida. He also serves as a trustee on the boards of Christian missions that focus on sustainable community development, such as Floresta and Hope Seeds, and frequently travels to Latin America. Dr. Unander is the author of *Shattering the Myth of Race: Genetic Realities and Biblical Truths*.



**Dr. Van Weigel** (*professor of ethics and economic development*) Dr. Weigel's doctoral dissertation explored the ethical dimensions of the Basic Needs Approach to economic development, as formulated by the International Labor Organization, and the preliminary findings of his research were published in *World Development*. He is the author of *A Unified Theory of Global Development*, selected by Choice as an "Outstanding Academic Book," and *Earth Cancer*, a book that examines the environmental impact of mainstream approaches to development. He is currently working on a book on the economics of hope.

# The Curriculum at a Glance

<b>ACCT 107, 108</b>	Principles of Accounting	6
<b>ANTH 301</b>	Christianity, Anthropology and Economic Systems	3
<b>BUSA 221</b>	Business Statistics	3
<b>ECON 203, 204</b>	Principles of Economics	6
<b>ECON 240</b>	Economic Development of Developing Countries	3
<b>ECON 330</b>	Economic Reasoning Seminar	3
<b>ECON 390</b>	International Economics and Finance	3
<b>ECON 480</b>	Development Studies Seminar	3
<b>ENTR 202</b>	Marketing for Entrepreneurial Organizations	3
<b>ENTR 320</b>	Social Entrepreneurship	3
<b>FIN 360</b>	Business Finance	3
<b>SOC 372</b>	Community Development in Developing Nations	3
<b>POS 200</b>	Comparative Government and Politics <i>or</i>	
<b>POS 212</b>	International Relations	3

*ONE of the following:* 3

<b>INST 213</b>	Heritage of India	
<b>SOC 350</b>	Poverty, Oppression and Development in Africa	
<b>INST 218</b>	Heritage of Islam	
<b>HIST 353</b>	History of the Middle East	
<b>HIST 354</b>	History of Latin America	

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**Total credit hours 48**

*Strongly recommended:*

<b>ECON 495</b>	Internship	3-6
	Minor with the Language Department, Anthropology, Environmental Studies, Missions, Political Science or Sociology	