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## Recruiting for Class IV, September 2009



The Future Generations Graduate School is accepting applications for its **Master's Degree in Applied Community Change and Conservation**. Applications for the next class are accepted on a rolling admissions basis. Applicants are strongly encouraged to apply early as the class, averaging 20 to 24 students, fills rapidly. The next class is projected to begin September 2009.

For more details, please contact Admission's Officer, LeeAnn Shreve, by emailing: [leeann@future.org](mailto:leeann@future.org) or calling +304.358.2000. Application forms and details are also available online at: [www.future.org](http://www.future.org)

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## New Dean Highlights Program Distinctions

The new dean of the Future Generations Graduate School, Dr. Thomas S. Acker, S. J., has field experience in developing countries and more than 40 years of experience in teaching and leading academic institutions. With a Ph.D. in biology from Stanford University, Acker, in 1972, became a Fulbright Professor in Nepal and later worked in that country as a Project Director for the US Peace Corps. He was President of Wheeling Jesuit University in West Virginia for 18 years.

To view the full press release click [<here>](#).

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## Master's Student Receives Davis Projects for Peace Award

Future Generations graduate student, Joy Bongyereire, was one of more than 100 students to receive a \$10,000 Davis Projects for Peace Award. Joy will use these funds to implement her project: Peacebuilding and Natural Resource Management in southwest Uganda. To view the full press release click [<here>](#).

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## Notes from the Peru Residential



Once every term, students and faculty meet face to face for a one-month residential to learn from outstanding examples of community change. In November 2008, students from India, Mozambique, Uganda, Peru, United States, China, Bhutan and Bangladesh met in Peru. Their purpose was to study first-hand how Peru is transforming its national health system. The residential also helped students integrate the lessons from their courses in Empowerment, Food and Water Security, and Going to Scale.



For two weeks, students traveled the Andes highlands of Cusco to visit communities that are managing their own health clinics. They met with women from Quechua-speaking communities who are trained as Community Health Agents. More than 700 women trained by Future Generations Peru are the bridge between their communities and the health centers. They ensure that at risk mothers and children are not overlooked. Students also met with the Executive Director of Health Promotion, Dr. Jose Rueda, at the Regional Health Department of Cusco to discuss issues of scaling up and sustaining quality health services through improved community leadership.



As part of their Pedagogy of Place course and environmental studies with Dr. Robert Fleming, students visited Machu Picchu. This major historical site is coping with the pressures of 400,000 tourists a year. Students saw how the Peruvian government is responding to issues of visitor management, transportation, and

overdevelopment, as well as this site's sacred values to traditional communities.



Even student Rezaul Karim from Bangladesh, who has been deeply immersed in helping the poor in his own country for decades, the Peru residential opened new insights.

Rezaul is a veteran of community development. For 22 years he has worked with BRAC, one of the world's largest non-government organizations based in Bangladesh. He currently serves as a Senior Regional Manager of a Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene program serving 37.5 million people. His direct role is to manage and coordinate a community-based intervention that builds local capacity through partnerships among BRAC, the communities, and government institutions.



For Rezaul, the Peru residential was a lesson in transforming theory into practice. He said he "witnessed a process of activating empowerment at the community level and growing local successes in both quantitative and qualitative ways."

"It was wonderful exposure to see that the Ministry of Health in Peru has created a strong co-managed health care delivery system that now reaches more than one-third of the population in the hard-to-reach areas. It has brought significant changes in the health care system, leading to the reduction of chronic child malnutrition, neonatal, child and maternal mortality rates."

"It was evident," he said, "that strong community-government partnerships can empower the powerless and lead to 'imaginative leadership.' The process I saw underway in Peru, I believe, is also cost-effective and can be adapted in Bangladesh."

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## Meet Student Tshering Lham Tshok from Bhutan

Tshering Lham Tshok is a program officer for the Royal Society for the Protection of Nature in Bhutan. She is an economist by training and an avid nature photographer. Her practicum (thesis) project assesses the factors influencing the depletion of ringshoo, an endemic species of wild bamboo. This plant has declined in villages where it is being harvested for handicrafts. The depletion underscores a larger challenge in Bhutan: how to conserve nature while improving the livelihoods of a growing and modernizing population. Lham focuses her research in the village communities of Kangpara, known for producing the finest bamboo crafts in Bhutan. She is currently collecting data on the social and ecological factors that influence ringshoo depletion. As she shares her findings with communities and government, her work will facilitate more sustainable solutions for ringshoo management.

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## Publications and Application Material

More details on the Master's Degree program are available on [www.future.org](http://www.future.org). These include:

- [an interactive slideshow tour of the program](#)
- [a full course catalogue](#)
- [application forms and instructions](#)

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