

The San Diego Microfinance Alliance

Student Led Microfinance Break Out Session Moderator & Panelists

Ken Downey (Moderator)

Ken Downey is a Senior Business Economics major at University of San Diego. Since first becoming an enthusiast of Microfinance by reading Yunus's *Banker to the Poor*, he has interned for the San Diego Microfinance Alliance, helped organize a four-week public course on Microfinance, and founded USD's student lead microfinance club. Ken has also helped USD create its first independently owned microfinance fund to serve a current total of seven women in the Chula Vista area. He has also worked on several studies of microfinance, presenting a paper at the Academy of Economics and Finance on the impact of non-profit vs. for-profit microfinance institutions. His future interests include further academic investigation of microfinance and eventually international law.

Ben Jaques

Ben is a Master's student studying international development at the Graduate School of International Relations and Pacific Studies (IR/PS) at UC San Diego. He is representing the IR/PS Development Club, a student-run organization that focuses on the idea of sustainable development. Ben spent last summer interning in Beijing at PlaNet Finance, a French NGO that works in microfinance around the world, and over the past year has been quantitative analysis intern for the Grameen Foundation. After graduation, Ben will be going to work at the Poverty Action Lab, a research center at MIT that uses randomized evaluations to answer questions critical to poverty alleviation.

Joseph Edward Davis

Joseph is currently a sophomore Finance and Entrepreneurship major at Point Loma Nazarene University. He first became interested in international development through the P.L.N.U. Microfinance Club as a freshman. He was just elected President of the club for the 2010-2011 school year. Joseph also has interned with the San Diego Microfinance Alliance, and was one of two Educational Opportunity Supervisors who put on a MF101 class at P.L.N.U. in October of 2009. His future interests in the field are in national or international microfinance and/or helping current microfinance clients gain more access to consumer markets. He also has an interest in providing low-cost consulting services to clients.

Julia Norgaard

Julia is a sophomore student at USD, majoring in mathematics and minoring in economics. This year she co-founded the USD Microfinance Club and is the executive director. She is currently an intern with the microfinance institution La Maestra, connecting students with microfinance volunteer opportunities. Julia is excited about expanding the USD Microfinance Club next year and hopes to get involved with more local MFIs.

Vanessa Pridmore

Vanessa graduated in 2009 from PLNU. While a student, Vanessa was actively involved in the Microfinance Club and wrote a paper on women's empowerment through microfinance as her senior thesis. Vanessa also interned as the Outreach Coordinator for the SDMFA before beginning her position at Alliance for African Assistance. Currently, she works in a Family Self-Sufficiency program assisting recently resettled refugees to attain employment in the United States.

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University Clubs Represented on Panel

UC San Diego

Development Club is a IR/PS student run organization that is focused on the idea of sustainable development. We have several exciting events planned for the upcoming year including: launching a consulting project for New Roots Farm in San Diego in addition to having a development oriented career panel in the Fall Quarter. We also plan on bringing in several guest speakers to engage us in a dialog concerning the logframe analysis currently used by USAID as well as the grant writing process. What we are most excited about however is to launch a brand new microfinance project targeted at Baja, California and or Mexico. We plan on working closely with Baja Project to implement the program and are currently in the brainstorming process. Therefore, this is a great time to be involved in Development Club as we will be needing several volunteers to help build up not only the Microfinance project but also the New Roots Farm project as well.

Please contact Kathryn Sproule if you would like more information on the club, ksproule@ucsd.edu
Or Angela Lee Am, l013@ucsd.edu

University of San Diego

The Microfinance Club is a student run organization whose mission is to spread awareness for microfinance and to make a positive impact on the poor through action. Recently the Microfinance Club participated in the \$2 a day challenge, a nationally organized event that challenges students to live off of \$2 dollars a day. During the challenge members of the microfinance club raised campus-wide awareness of poverty and microfinance, as well as fundraising enough for a micro-loan to Norma, a single mother of three in Chula Vista. We have also participated and organized several markets for microfinance borrowers throughout the San Diego area, attended several conferences and classes on microfinance, and founded several borrowers internationally through Kiva.org. In the future we are planning for a Tijuana immersion trip as well as further integration with the microfinance borrowers through the platform of business consulting.

Please contact Julia Norgaard for more information regarding the club, jnorgaard@sandiego.edu

Point Loma Nazarene University

Our Microfinance Club's mission is to spread awareness about Microfinance and the impact it is making in alleviating poverty both locally and around the globe. We plan to empower individuals so that they may actively participate in the development of this movement. Our goals are to spread awareness through monthly discussions and readings. We bring in speakers from Microfinance organizations to give presentations and discussions with students. We make it our duty to connect students to the Microfinance realm through local volunteer opportunities as well as domestic and international internships. We also host one main event each semester that raises interest and awareness about Microfinance. This year we participated in the \$2 Challenge and are recruiting new leaders to continue this annual event were students from all majors are encouraged to live outside for three days while being limited to less than \$2 a day. Because many of our leaders are graduating Seniors, we would like to recruit new members that will fundraise to lend microfinance loans via Kiva.org. We are also launching microfinance lessons to elementary students via the One Hen book and its curriculum.

Please contact Joseph Davis if you are interested in joining the club, josephdavis012@pointloma.edu

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For Involvement Opportunities please visit:

<http://sdmicrofinance.org/get-involved>