Building Resilience in Poor Communities through Information and Communications Technology for Development (ICT4D)

Fall 2014 Faculty/Staff CRS Partnership Workshop
Friday, October 3, 2014
9:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m., Falvey Library, room 205

Catholic Relief Services’ (CRS) leadership in the use of Information and Communications Technology for development (ICT4D) is recognized across the relief and development sector. Over 400 NGO staff, donors, educators, government representatives and technology providers from across the world attended CRS’ 6th Annual ICT4D Conference last March in Nairobi.

This workshop will provide an overview of the range of technology used in the field, the challenges and successes in using ICT tools to address the needs of developing communities, CRS’ ethical framework and principles of partnership and its strategic public/private/partnerships.

A Villanova Faculty Panel will discuss their research and teaching related to ICT.

Workshop Schedule:

9:30 – 9:40 a.m. - Welcome, Introductions
9:40 – 10:10 a.m. - Overview – Stephen Hellen
10:10 – 10:20 a.m. - Break
10:25 – 10:55 a.m. - Health Applications: Marianna Hensley (India via Skype)
11:00 – 11:30 a.m. - Business Applications: Shaun Ferris
11:35 – 11:40 a.m. - Break
11:40 – 12:10 p.m. - Faculty Panel: Professors Bette Mariani (Nursing) & Pritpal Singh (Electrical & Computer Engineering) Francis Galgano (Geography & the Environment), Frank Klassner (Computing Sciences)
12:20 – 1:05 p.m. - Working lunch: 2 interest groups
1:10 – 1:30 p.m. - Wrap Up
1:30 – 2:30 p.m. - Discussion: Possible Collaboration
Shaun Ferris is CRS’ Director of Agricultural Livelihoods. He provides technical assistance to CRS’ programs overseas with an emphasis on agro-enterprise development. This includes developing best practices that enable poor farming communities to engage with markets more successfully. As a result, new methods are now being implemented in more than 35 countries that provide better incomes for farmers. Dr. Ferris holds a B.S. in Horticultural Science from the University of Reading, UK; an M.S. in Tropical and Agronomy from Nottingham University, U.K; and a Ph.D. in Post-Production Science from Cranfield University in Bedfordshire, U.K.

Stephen Hellen, with over 15 years of ICT experience, joined CRS in 2012 to lead a team of architects focused on ICT4D and improvements to systems throughout the agency. Previously, Steve served as Director of Academic Technology at Johns Hopkins University managing learning and student systems. He taught undergraduate GIS and computer science courses. His career began at Accenture where he was involved with all phases of the enterprise applications lifecycle. Steve holds a Master’s in environmental science and policy, Bachelor’s in engineering science and post-baccalaureate certificate in GIS. He is a certified project management professional and Microsoft solution developer.

Marianna Hensley, is based in New Delhi as CRS’ regional technical advisor for monitoring and evaluation, accountability and learning in East and South Asia, providing technical support to CRS country programs from India to the Philippines. In her previous role as Program Quality Manager with CRS India, Marianna led project design and mobile content development for the Reducing Maternal and Newborn Deaths (ReMiND) project. Marianna has over 12 years of international experience in the field of global health. Her professional interests include maternal newborn and child health and nutrition, mHealth, health system strengthening, monitoring & evaluation, accountability, and capacity building and learning.