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September 16, 2003

Scott Kloeck-Jenson Internship Grant Report: Mwalimu Nyerere Foundation

With a \$3000 grant from the Scott Kloek-Jenson Internship fund, I did a 10-week internship with the Mwalimu Nyerere Foundation in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. The internship was an extraordinarily fruitful experience for me, and I think was beneficial for the Foundation as well.

I began communication with the Foundation in January of this year. The director, Joseph Butiku, was welcoming, and handed over the arrangements to Dr. Jonathan Lwehabura, a Programme Manager at the Foundation.

I started my internship on June 23 and worked with the Foundation until August 29. Upon arrival I was introduced to the staff by Dr. Lwehabura. He then placed me in the library where I was to spend the bulk of my time. It seems that they get visitors, interns, and researchers on a regular basis, and it seems they usually wait until that person settles in before they decide what he or she will actually do. Dr. Lwehabura gave me a set of materials of the Foundation to read, which I did, and then began reading my own things or other things I found in the library. Eventually, I went to see Dr. Angela Chaila, another Programme Manager who seems to have the task of overseeing the interns once they are on-site. She gave me a proposal to evaluate. I evaluated the proposal, and eventually we started working more closely together. She had me proofread things and work on funding proposals. In my spare time I continued getting to know the library staff and looking through the materials available at the library.

The library staff was working on various projects, cataloguing books, writing funding proposals, and thinking of ways to improve and publicize their services. In this vein I designed a brochure for them and printed out a sample. The library staff thought it was good, and showed it to Dr. Chaila. The Foundation is now just beginning a major fund-raising campaign to build an impressive new building and build an endowment. As a part of this, they also were interested in a brochure. So I designed another brochure for the fund-raising campaign. This brochure was vetted by most of the staff of the Foundation, as well as the Director and the Chairman of the Board, Dr. Salim Ahmed Salim. I also sent a copy to Dr. Ron Aminzade at the University of Minnesota who is working closely with them on the fund-raising campaign. After all the proof-reading was through, I then made arrangements to have it printed with a printer in town who I had worked closely with before. The printing went well, even though there were some minor problems. We printed 2000 copies of the Fund-Raising brochure, and 1000 copies of the library brochure (attached)

Another project which I began working on was to start transferring tape recordings of Julius Nyerere's speeches to CD-ROM's. I had brought a small recorder that could do this, and through a friend I was able to contact a long-time employee of Radio Tanzania who was very supportive of the idea. After the Director wrote a letter to the Managing Director of Radio

Tanzania we had the go-ahead to begin the project. Unfortunately we were not able to go any further with this project because I wanted to make sure that I went with a young man who works in the library named Johnson Rugoye. He is a very conscientious staff member, and because of this they often have him doing all sorts of other jobs. So we were unable to find the time to go to Radio Tanzania. The project is still in the works however, and the Foundation may decide to continue with it, or we may continue when I return. I donated the recording machine as well as a CD-RW drive, so that the Foundation is now fully capable of continuing with this project.

Mr. Rugoye and myself, in conjunction with the Director, also began making plans to visit Julius Nyerere's hometown in order to interview a few elders who knew Nyerere. I offered to pay his costs for the trip since the Foundation was tight for money, and because I knew Mr. Rugoye was very interested in the history. The Foundation itself is interested in preserving a record of Nyerere's life and accomplishments, and this fit in with that goal. Again there were many delays, but we were finally able to make the trip. Before leaving we also got the chance to visit TVT the national TV station. They had done some interviews with some of these elders some years ago, and we wanted to know what they had done. They however were not very cooperative. They said that the video tapes were already beginning to deteriorate, and only the audio can be heard. In retrospect we would have been much better off making preparations at Radio Tanzania.

Eventually we did make the trip to Nyerere's hometown. The director had us coordinate our trip with his own trip to that part of the country so that we could attend meetings with village leaders under the auspices of the National Development Dialogue which is another project of the Foundation. This was very interesting. We met with village leaders and heard about their situations and concerns. The director then spoke with them, and even asked me to speak a little on both days. One day this went quite well, the next day, however, my presentation was a bit disorganized. We also had an opportunity to tour a small gold mine in the area, which us the chance to debate the pros and cons of that industry and its place in the society. It was a great pleasure to get to know Mr. Butiku better during the course of this trip.

After the director left, Mr. Rugoye and myself then began interviewing various elders with the digital recording machine. These interviews were fascinating, and the recordings will be a great record for Tanzania. I hope that one day someone will make a video documentary and be able to use those on the soundtrack. When we returned we downloaded the recordings to CD-ROM, and they remained with the Foundation.

Towards the end of the trip, the director asked me to come talk with him more about the Foundation and where it was headed when I got back. This I did, and he had me write out my ideas. So I wrote up what was probably a very wordy 15-page memo summarizing all my observations and suggestions for the Foundation. He liked the ideas, even though he disagreed with some, and had me present them for debate at a managerial meeting during my last week at the Foundation. The ideas went over pretty well in the meeting. (I can make a copy available if you wish.)

All in all it was an excellent trip, and I learned a great deal from the opportunity to be so actively involved with the Foundation and its programs. So I am very thankful for the grant.