
INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO: GRAHAM PIKE; ANNE LEAVITT; AUDREY HANSEN
CC: ANNE LEAVITT
FROM: IMOGENE LIM, ANTHROPOLOGY
SUBJECT: TRAVEL AND STUDY ABROAD GRANT - TANZANIA
DATE: 7/7/2011

From May 21 to June 16, 2009, I travelled to Tanzania to initiate and investigate the possibility of partnerships with the University of Dar-es-Salaam (UDSM) and Ardhi University (ARU). Another goal was to determine the feasibility of a future field school for 2010 or 2011, especially given the world economic downturn, as well as reassess its planning. And, finally, the trip allowed further conversations with Farkwa Secondary School regarding internships for Anthropology students.

My time in Tanzania was most productive. I visited the University of Dar-es-Salaam (UDSM) and met with Mrs. Mabel Kaaya (Senior Administrative Officer - Co-operation, Links & Projects Office; contact: links@admin.udsm.ac.tz, kaayama@yahoo.com, +255 (022) 2420501 /8 x2440). Since my return, she has forwarded information that I had requested (contact list of the senior administrators, attached).

Any UDSM linkage is made with a partner department or institute. The partner serves as the contact, which does not preclude activities undertaken in other faculties or institutes. Developing an initial partnership with the Archaeology Unit will likely be easier given my relationship and familiarity with a number of the faculty. The Principal of the Campus College of Arts and Social Sciences, Dr. Bertram Mapunda, is from the Archaeology Unit.

UDSM has had a MOU with Carleton University since the 1980s so VIU might learn something about this process from a fellow Canadian institution by contacting Carleton's International Student Services Office (<http://www2.carleton.ca/isso/exchange/>). Approximately four Carleton students have attended UDSM every semester since 2003.

As well, I hope to learn more about this process when I visit New England (early fall). Dr. Lina Fruzzetti, Faculty Director of the Brown in Tanzania Program (<http://www.brown.edu/Administration/OIP/programs/tanzania/index.php>) (she is one of my former anthropology professors), was in Dar when I was. Unfortunately her schedule and mine did not allow us to meet. She is aware of my upcoming visit and we plan to discuss the Brown program at this time. I note from the Brown website: "The Brown in Tanzania Program has been placed on hold for the 2009-2010 academic year, pending further review." Learning what issues may have arisen will speed developing VIU's own program.

At Ardhi University (ARU), I met with Dr. Hidaya Kayuza, Links Officer (contact: hidaya@aru.ac.tz, +255 0754 277128 - mobile). She is also a colleague of a long time friend, Dr. Medard Geho, Head, Department of Real Estate Finance and Investments, as well as, Department of Property Facilities and Management, in the School of Real Estate Studies. Comparable to UDSM partnerships, conversations begin between respective departments

before involving the Links Officer. While in Dar, Dr. Geho kindly provided me with a digital copy of his proposal for a BBA program that is still awaiting approval. I can forward it if you are interested (124 pages in length). Another Bachelor degree program is being proposed in Geography. A draft was not available to me at the time; it was prepared by Dr. Evaristo Liwa, Director of Undergraduate Programs, who is also a member of the School of Geospatial Sciences and Technology.

I am already aware of one program of potential interest to VIU: the School of Urban and Regional Planning. Pam Shaw, Geography, has expressed great interest in it and has already looked at ARU's *Prospectus 2008/09-2010/11* (a copy provided by Dr. Kayuza). It lists all the administrators and teaching staff (pp.70-82), as well as details of the various programs (course titles and semester offered).

ARU has undergone a “rebranding” or evolution as VIU has—most recently in 2007. My first introduction to Ardhi was as Ardhi Institute; later in 1996 it became one of the colleges of the UDSM – University College of Lands and Architectural Studies (UCLAS). It is a much smaller institution than UDSM and is comparable to VIU in having small classes and many applied programs (including a second year compulsory practicum).

While in Dar, I also paid a visit to the National Museum of Tanzania (Museum & House of Culture Dar-es-Salaam); Dr. Paul Msemwa, its Director, is a former classmate from Brown. I met with several of the curators and researchers (Magreth Mapunda, History; Adelaide Sallema, Environmental Sciences; and Christine Ngereza, Biology). Ms. Ngereza is Principle Researcher and is also in charge of the Educational Program. She is open to working with Anthropology in initiating internships. A research internship will require much more work in developing a program that is mutually beneficially for all involved, but those of a more practical matter, such as, data entry, children’s programming, or web design, can be initiated more readily.

In regards to other internship possibilities, I followed up on a contact provided by Elke Cole, O.U.R. Ecovillage, in Bagamoyo (72km north of Dar). Elke has been working with Terri Place of The Baobab Home (<http://www.tzkids.org/home/>). The Baobab Home already has a process in place for accepting volunteers. While there I met a Canadian woman, Martha Richardson, who is now employed as its Volunteer Coordinator after coming to Tanzania as a volunteer for another organization. Having students work with The Baobab Home is one option for a field school.

Another possibility for a field school is to spend some time (ca. 10 days) on an excavation at Olduvai. For anthropology students, Olduvai is a “dream come true”! Drs. Fidelis Masao and Audax Mabulla, Archaeology Unit, UDSM, both have projects in Olduvai. The key is timing VIU’s field school in order to overlap with their respective excavations in May-June. From us, we would need to bring camping gear and find transport to the site from Arusha. Expenses on site would be US\$5-6 per day.

The Tanzania field school in 2007 travelled to Farkwa, the village where I undertook my doctoral research. I would want to do the same but stay longer (ca. 10 days) with the idea of VIU students acting as English language tutors or assisting in class activities at the secondary

school (there is also a primary school in the village). A one-month vacation period is in June so this would have to be considered in any planning.

Farkwa Secondary School is the other location where students can potentially be placed in an internship assisting in teaching. They are very much in need of those with a science background though English language tutoring alone would be a significant contribution. There is a shortage of teachers particularly in the rural areas of Tanzania. In the village of Donsee, just south of Farkwa (ca. an hour's walk), the primary school is closed for a lack of teachers. The Assistant Headmaster indicated that any intern at Farkwa Secondary School would have a room in the teacher's residence. By our standards, living conditions are rigorous (no electricity, nor running water, though plans are for a common water tap). For this reason, my recommendation is that no less than two interns be sent at any one time for mutual support.

In 2007, we were housed at the Farkwa Catholic Mission. This is still possible though, in future, plans potentially can be made with my "family" to stay in the houses of their adult children that are in the process of being completed (they work elsewhere and these houses are for their use in retirement).

Facilities in Dar and Bagamoyo were also investigated. My choice in Dar remains the YWCA for its location, safety and cost. As well, numerous student tour groups and researchers use the YWCA as their base. In 2007, students were initially in the regular rooms with shared communal bath facilities. After four students succumbed to stomach problems, we decided that staying in en-suite rooms would improve overall health. The YWCA only has five of these (all but one has two beds each, TZS25,000 per room). The next option in Dar is Luther House with six single and six double rooms; the rate is almost twice as expensive (TZS40,000-45,000), though the rooms do have AC! Both YWCA and Luther House accept payment in TZS which is preferred to paying in US dollars, such as at the nearby establishment, Sophia House Hotel & Apartments (<http://www.sophiahouse.com/raha%20towers/rates.htm>). This is double that of Luther House. These three are in the heart of the downtown area and conveniently located.

For accommodation in Bagamoyo, I located a lodge that was less expensive than the one previously used. Town Lodge B&B has four double rooms (two beds each), two with AC and two without (TZS35,000-40,000), as well as a total of six single rooms. It also has a camp site; its brochure indicates a charge of US\$10 per person. I stayed at the Spiritan Cultural Centre prior to discovering the Town Lodge. It charged TZS45,000 for a room with AC.

As part of reassessing the field school planning, I made inquiries about language training. There is one private company, KIU-Swahili & Culture Training and Services (<http://www.swahilicourses.com/index.html>), which has worked with international agencies, as well as the private student. With a school group, they are open to negotiating a price. Since five students are charged US\$3.50 per hour per person; I believe we should be able to obtain, at a minimum, a rate of US\$3.00, but preferably US\$2.00-2.50. Payment is in US dollars with a 60% deposit to confirm the booking. I envision a crash language course of 7-10 days as a period of acclimatization for the students. KIU is opening an office in Stonetown, Zanzibar, so this would provide the added advantage of being in another city of great historic and

cultural interest. KIU's Stonetown office will be run by Mike Harrison, sfh53@aol.com, who can also advise on accommodation based on budget. (Ferry cost to/from Dar to Stonetown is in US dollars, \$40 each way per person).

Besides KIU, I was given the name of a Swahili language instructor, Mama Maryam, maramdarweish@yahoo.co.uk, in Stonetown at The Institute of Kiswahili and Foreign Languages (Taasisi ya Kiswahili na Lugha za Kigeni). This instructor comes highly recommended. Initial communication in Tanzania indicated that the charge is US\$7 per hour. This language institute is now part of the State University of Zanzibar: http://www.suza.ac.tz/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=14&Itemid=13. On the website, accommodation can be arranged as a homestay (full board) for US\$12 per day; this would be an ideal complement to a field school and seems economical given general expenses. I will have to make further inquiries to see whether a shorter course program can be arranged.

Based on the previous field school, the number of students participating will have to be few in number (six, possibly eight maximum) based on accommodation and travel. Travel to Farkwa is by public transport. Reservations can be made for the Dar-Dodoma bus and these provide a full-size seat for each passenger. This is not the case for the local bus travelling between Dodoma and the village. The return from the village is the difficult part of the trip as passengers scramble to get themselves and luggage on board—the stop is brief; reserving for a sizable group will be awkward. Hiring a vehicle is not economically feasible. The road from Dodoma to Farkwa is unpaved so a 4WD is best. A vehicle and driver would be minimally US\$100 per day. With 6-8 students plus faculty, two vehicles would be needed which basically rules out independent transport.

Details need to be fine-tuned, but all in all, I feel positive about another field school in Tanzania, as well as internships. The favoured currency of exchange continues to be the US\$. This can be a deterrent to students if our dollar weakens in value. Some businesses (e.g., hotels, language schools, Zanzibar ferry) calculate fees only in US currency, or if in TZ shillings at a higher rate than that of the bank. Exchanging funds is best done with cash (US\$50 and 100 bills—best rate) as traveller's cheques appear to be going the way of the dinosaurⁱ. A debit card is perhaps the better way to obtain TZ shillings, though a daily limit is TZS400,000 (about \$330-340). For a field school's expenses this will require either advance payment or a bit of creative accounting (multiple bank accounts with debit cards).

I want to express my sincere thanks to International Education's Travel Study Grant Committee for supporting my time in Tanzania.

ⁱ One of the largest banks, National Bank of Commerce, no longer accepts traveller's cheques (TCs), as well as most Bureau de Change. When I found one that did the rate was much less, compare TZS900/US\$ for TCs to TZS1330/US\$ cash (\$50/\$100 bills). The Tanzania Investment Bank, which did accept TCs, charged 2% for the service. The matter of foreign exchange is probably the most time consuming and worrying task in Tanzania, as not all ATMs will accept a bank debit card though using a VISA/MasterCard is apparently more common.