

Making A Difference Globally



Nursing Where It Is Needed Most

A 28-year old widow dying of AIDS while trying to raise two kids in a one-bedroom plywood shack she shares with her mother-in-law, her nieces and her nephews—this is the deplorable situation SU's nursing students discovered when they travelled to Tanzania.

SU volunteers traveled with Global Service Corps – Tanzania to teach awareness classes in villages around the city of Arusha for about two weeks, experiencing a vastly different culture. In the midst of this poor, disease-ridden village, the Americans taught AIDS awareness and prevention classes. They also visited hospitals and clinics in Tanzania to get a first-hand look at the healthcare system in place there. In Tanzania most nurses have no more than a high school education through which a basic nursing certificate can be earned.

Reflecting on the role the West plays in this mammoth health crisis, nursing professor Voncelia Brown said the United States “has a global responsibility to improve healthcare in the rest of

the world, in addition to doing more with what we have here.” While working with their counterpart nurses in Tanzania, the American group also gained an appreciation for what these individuals are able to accomplish with such limited resources.

A Window Into Another Culture

The trip also offered lessons in Tanzanian—and world—culture. Participants spent the first week in a hostel where they met travelers from around the globe. The second week each participant lived with a Tanzanian family and experienced its lifestyle and unique traditions.

While on safari, SU students and faculty learned about the natural wonders of Tanzania including the Ngorogoro Crater and Lake Manyara national parks. This trip also provided a window into the life of the Maasai, a well-known tribe in East Africa.

While in Tanzania, students learned to speak basic Swahili. With the help of Tanzanian students and maps, they also navigated Arusha, a large city with few street signs and no traffic lights or stop signs. They experienced living in an environment of constant chaotic, dusty and fume-generating traffic and making a home in a city where they were in the vast minority. Most significantly, they learned of the generosity of the Tanzanian people and their willingness to share what they had.



Finley Aids In Hurricane Katrina Relief

In the wake of devastation left behind after hurricanes ravaged the Gulf Coast, SU students stepped up in droves to help those affected by the national disaster.

Traveling to the Gulf Coast during Spring Break, SU's NAACP Chapter President Wendy Finley headed south not for sun and relaxation but to lend a hand in the clean up and rebuilding process. Finley worked with volunteers from the assistance organization Saving Ourselves (SOS) in the Katrina on the Ground Project. Her duties included helping survivors recover personal items from their homes before gutting or demolishing the buildings.

No stranger to community service, Finley is also active in Salisbury's Urban Ministries, using her spare time to help feed the homeless at an area soup kitchen. Her enthusiasm is infectious, and several SU students have joined her in the effort.

This spring the Carroll F.S. Hardy National Black Student Leadership Development Conference recognized Finley with one of the nation's highest student volunteerism honors, The Wind Beneath My

Wings Award. The award annually honors a student who has achieved academic success while providing service and exemplary leadership to both the on- and off-campus communities through volunteerism and leadership.

The folks back home are proud of Finley as well. They bestowed upon her the key to the city of District Heights, MD, her hometown, for her commitment to national volunteerism.

"It was a very humbling experience," Finley said. "SU has changed my life forever, and I'm very proud to be called an SU Sea Gull."



Resolving Conflict Around The World



In placements spanning the globe from Ireland to Australia, SU students in the B.A. in Conflict Analysis and Dispute Resolution Program work toward fostering peace building through the conflict analysis process. Program Director Brian Polkinghorn explained the life-changing effect these experiences have on students: "The more students challenge their beliefs, politics and assumptions, the better prepared they are to effectively analyze and intervene in conflict."

Examples of recent international internships include:

- Andrew Bearese participated in the exceptionally competitive Institute for International Mediation and Conflict Resolution in Cyprus, a summer-long program on international conflict.
- Mate Vlader worked with local communities on conflict resolution centers in Hungary and the Czech Republic.



- Ellie Adelman travelled to India where she worked with Arun Gandhi (grandson of Mahatma Gandhi) for five weeks and then spent five months working in a local community on women's issues, child development and economic programs.
- Mark Hopson and Kelley Donohue conducted extensive research on graduate programs in conflict resolution around the world — Hopson in Australia and Donohue in Ireland, Sweden and Denmark.