

SUMMER VENTURES

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UBS FINANCIAL SERVICES/NEW YORK

By Patrick Wayne

I spent the summer of 2010 interning at UBS Financial Services where I worked for the RJR Wealth Management Group. My supervisor managed money for high net worth individuals. He was fairly new to the group and was focused on gaining more clients.

I am glad that I had this experience because I was able to do some interesting things and gained good experience for my resume.

Each day I listened to the UBS morning conference call that featured different

speakers discussing the current topics or investment strategies. I learned how to use a Bloomberg terminal and I helped with the analysis of different mutual funds. However, a majority of my time was spent on tasks to help attract new clients. I helped organize a seminar and did mailings with follow-up calls.

Initially, I was unsuccessful in getting a paid internship at one of the major banks because my resume consisted of Peace Corps, AmeriCorps, and some work on political campaigns. My resume had nothing on it that indicated that I was seriously interested in the private sector. So, I accepted the

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TRICKLE UP / MALI

By Kari Nelson

This summer, I had the opportunity to work with Trickle Up, an NGO that works to help the poorest of the poor engage in en-

trepreneurial activities. These business activities help participants to increase their income and create a more sustainable future for themselves and their families.

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Kari with her field team in front of the Trickle Up national office in Mali.

UNDP EQUATOR INITIATIVE/CENTRAL AMERICA

By Whitney Wilding

This summer I had the rare opportunity of visiting not one but eight grassroots organizations scattered throughout five countries in Central America. As part of my on-going internship with UNDP Equator Initiative, I visited these organizations in an effort to profile their valuable work and highlight the ways in which their environmental initiatives contribute to poverty reduction and to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The products I developed fall under the Biodiversity for Local Livelihoods project, a celebration of the International Year of Biodiversity.

Starting out in Guatemala, I endeavored to get my Spanish up to a working level by doing 60 hours of intensive private lessons and living with a host family in the beautiful colonial town of Antigua. At the end of my time at the Antiguaña Spanish Academy, I actually felt somewhat prepared to embark on my 2-month traveling internship.

My first stop was in the northern Petén region of Guatemala, where four of my targeted groups were located. Since deforestation is a devastating environmental problem in the region, most initiatives in this area focus their efforts on convincing local people to end slash and burn agricultural techniques and other destructive activities. Alimentos Nutri-Naturales, for example, is a women's cooperative which seeks to restore the value of a long-forgotten forest product called the Maya nut by harvesting the nuts and producing a powder from them



Whitney showing the catch brought in by the artisan fishermen of Tárcoles in Costa Rica

which can be used to make a wide variety of nutritious foods and drinks. In doing so, the women are combating rural poverty and malnutrition and protecting the forest.

After that, I went to Belize to spend 10 days at the Toledo Institute for Development and Environment, an organization that pretty much single-handedly protects a marine reserve by employing local fishermen as rangers and undertakes a range of creative

activities to educate local people about environmental issues.

From there, I spent about 2 weeks in Honduras, 1 week in Nicaragua, and 2 weeks in Costa Rica. The fishing community that I visited in Tárcoles, Costa Rica was another inspiring example of local ingenuity in the face of large environmental problems.

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TRICKLE UP/MALI (CONT.)

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For the summer, Trickle Up sent me to work in their Mali, West Africa field office. Once there, my main job was to help the field office improve their monitoring and evaluation systems. Of top priority was the creation of a new baseline survey. To do this, I helped the field staff set priorities for measurement- a list that I was then able to use to formulate new survey questions.

The process culminated with a field test to verify the clarity and reliability in

our new survey tool. This field test was a part of a 3 day workshop with members from each of their 17 partner organizations. I helped lead many of the sessions and helped supervise the field test. By the end of the workshop we had a great deal of very useful and detailed feedback which was then used to revise the survey and create an accompanying interviewer's guide.

In addition to this work, I was also responsible for working with their staff to update their Data Quality Control policies and to train their data manager in more sophisticated statistical methods.

At the end of the summer, I returned to New York, but have continued working with the Trickle Up headquarters in the US. I continue to liaise with the field office in the creation of new monitoring and evaluation tools and plans. For me, the experience has been extremely beneficial as it has reinforced my desire to continue working within the monitoring and evaluation field. M&E is a critical need for development projects, and it is a field that is currently growing. I plan to follow up my work with Trickle Up by pursuing further studies in evaluation techniques and methodologies after graduation from the IPED program.

UNDP EQUATOR INITIATIVE/CENTRAL AMERICA (CONT.)

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The fishermen of Tárcoles have come together to create a cooperative to promote the sustainability of their artisan fishing practices which have been threatened by large bottom-trawling ships. The cooperative supplements the dwindling income of fishermen by offering guided tours and is currently petitioning the government to create a marine reserve.

Every community-based organization I visited was a past winner of the Equator Prize which recognizes outstanding community efforts to reduce poverty through the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. The ability to meet so many inspiring and dedicated people and learn about their creative approaches to complex problems was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity that I will never forget!

“a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity that I will never forget”

***-Whitney Wilding
on her summer experience***

USB FINANCIAL SERVICES/NEW YORK (CONT.)



UBS Financial Services office building in New York City.

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unpaid internship at UBS because I knew I had to pay my dues in order for the private sector to view me as a serious candidate.

In the end, the experience paid off. Before the summer ended I secured a paid internship for the fall with Energy Intelligence. I will be conducting commercial research on the oil and gas industry. The energy field interests me and is very relevant to international political economy. Doing research will be a great way for me to gain

exposure to issues within the industry. The job will include work on a Bloomberg Terminal and Reuter's machine. Throughout the interview process, my interviewers seemed impressed by my experience at UBS Financial Services. Had I never had this experience, I do not think I would have been given an interview.

IPED SUMMER INTERNSHIPS

During the 3 semester IPED program, all students are encouraged to seek internships or language immersion study programs during the summer between their second and third semesters. To aid with expenses for these trips, several different competitive scholarships are awarded.

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US DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE/EL SALVADOR

By Jonathan Ruder

This past summer, I utilized a Public Service Assistantship Field Placement award to gain experience working for the U.S. Department of Commerce in El Salvador. Stationed at the U.S. Embassy in the capital, San Salvador, I worked in the regional Market Access and Trade Compliance office of the U.S. Department of Commerce gaining perspective on various international trade and entrepreneurship issues. Over the course of the summer I participated on teams that analyzed cooperative agreements, collaborated with industry experts, and negotiated with foreign officials.

Drafting problem reports for US exporters that were experiencing trade obstructions was one of my major contributions. I also utilized an opportunity to brief the Trade Attaché on regional trade developments. Some other assignments included compiling and organizing information and databases, translating legal documents, and verifying HTS code classifications.

This opportunity enabled me to learn about diplomatic and legal procedures pertaining to international trade facilitation and development, and furthered my ability to perform effectively in time-sensitive situations. My personal highlight was contributing to the Corporate Social Responsibility event hosted by the Embassy, and organized principally by the Market Access and Trade Compliance office. This event promoted and recognized over 40 U.S. companies that are making a positive impact in the country of El Salvador through various Social Responsibility programs.

Pictured Left: Jonathan with Commercial Counselor Mr. Michael McGee of the U.S. Embassy in El Salvador



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