



*The Graduate Program in International Political Economy  
And Development ~ Fordham University*

# Summer Ventures

Reports from IPED Students' Summer Internships

**Volume 4**

**Fall 2011**

## IPED STUDENT ASSIGNMENTS

### SUMMER 2011

- Usama Al-Za'tari: Council on American-Islamic Relations, Washington D.C.
- Erin Atwell: UN Equator Initiative, Senegal
- Jonathan Clay: French Study, France
- Eileen Eley: Khula Enterprise Financial, South Africa
- Bailey Evans: Clinton Global Initiative, New York
- Tessa Finlev: Institute of Economic Affairs, Kenya
- Kerri-Anne Fortier: French Study, France
- Aaron Gardner: UN- eGovernment Branch, New York
- Emily Groene: French Study, France
- Katie Jajtner: State Department, Morocco
- Susan Kibe: St. Peters Episcopal Church, Tanzania
- Alexey Kobylanskiy: Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency, Washington D.C.
- Oleksii Liman: Center for International Policy Studies, New York
- Emily MacGruder: International Youth Foundation, Tanzania
- Nomsa Mazwai: Emerging Markets, South Africa
- Dominic Monley: Achievement First Charter Management Organization, New York
- Eva Neykova: Womens World Finance, New York
- Donna Odra: Spanish Study, Bolivia
- Leilane Olano: UBS Financial Services, New York
- Lorenzo Ortega: Haver Analytics, New York
- Nathan Snyder: USAID, Ethiopia
- Andra Tomsa: UBS Financial Services, New York
- Sergey Violin: Center for International Policy Studies, New York



Nathan with local boys from the Kobo site in the Amhara region of Ethiopia.

## Nathan Snyder, USAID Ethiopia

In June of this year I left for Addis Ababa, Ethiopia to intern with USAID. I worked for USAID's Africa Bureau program which is in its pilot phase with the anticipation of expanding to other African countries this coming year. I worked in collaboration with a partner organization of USAID, ARD Inc., a subsidiary of Tetra Tech which is based in Burlington, VT.

My project entailed evaluating a specific component

of the Ethiopia-Strengthening Land Administration Program (ELAP). This program is responsible for helping the Ethiopian government establish better land tenure practices and encourage rural farmers to feel secure in their property. I analyzed the Public Information and Awareness Campaign (PIA) and its success in informing all key stakeholders of the ELAP program.

To orient myself, I began

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## Editorial Board

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Emily MacGruder with fellow workers at International Youth Foundation in Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania.

### Emily MacGruder, International Youth Foundation, Tanzania

My summer internship was with the International Youth Foundation (IYF) in Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania. I assisted in starting up the USAID funded Tanzania Youth Scholars (TYS) program. Through the grant, TYS's objective is to provide secondary school and vocational training scholarships to orphans and vulnerable children (OVCs) in 10 regions of Tanzania. The role of IYF is to manage the grant and provide capacity-

building guidance to the 3 local organizations who are implementing the project. IYF is a US-based INGO that promotes youth education, employment and citizenship initiatives.

My internship began one week after USAID approved the grant. I was able to play a large role despite only being there 3 months. This unique opportunity allowed me to be involved in organizational aspects of the project such as

identifying an office location and ensuring due diligence in all office purchases. I was also involved in programmatic aspects such as helping in the preparation of partner work-plans, budgets and monitoring and evaluation plans. My most significant task for the summer was coordinating and directing the orientation workshop. This workshop was the first time each of our sub-grantees and their staff from outer regions met and

collaborated together for the project implementation.

Through this internship I applied my prior skills in workforce development, which is emphasized in IYF's focus on life skills training in its education projects. Furthermore, my training in project management, project assessment and community economic development in IPED was also useful in this internship.

I gained technical skills including how to identify OVCs for a USAID Presidential Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) project as well as organizational skills.

These skills were helpful in accomplishing objectives in a developing city like Dar es Salaam which suffers from poor infrastructure.

The most useful thing I will take from this internship is my experience of not only working on a USAID grant, but also helping to manage the initiation of a grant.

I'm confident that my summer spent working on the TYS project in Tanzania will prepare me well for a career in project management. During my closing interview IYF encouraged me to apply for any job openings I might be interested in with them and they expressed a great deal of interest in having another intern from IPED in the future!



*Continued from page 1: Nathan Snyder, Ethiopia*

my assignment learning about land reform and tenure issues in Ethiopia, as well as developing my own evaluation program for PIA. I visited the Amhara region of the regional capital, Bahir Dar, and the two active program sites, Kobo and Woldyia, to collect information. I interviewed Supreme Court justices, local justices, land administration officials as well as local farmers about their perceptions on the ELAP program and its impact upon their lives. Upon return to headquarters at the end of my assignment I presented my findings to both ARD Inc. and USAID. I also created a report which helped in the dialogue for the future of the program.

From this internship, I learned about the difficulties in creating an evaluation program and ways to improve the process. I also learned the value of patience and diplomacy because, although the program was successful, the USAID internship program is new and took this first year to work out a few of the initial complications.

I believe this internship was perfect for providing a practical background to my studies at IPED. My coursework in monitoring and evaluation, studies in agricultural issues and computer skills acquired at Fordham University were instrumental to my success. I truly believe that my time with USAID/Ethiopia will be crucial for my future career and has been invaluable for my development as a student in the IPED program.

## Andra Tomsa, UBS Financial Services, New York

My summer internship was at UBS in the Wealth Management department of the international bank. I was initially assigned to work with a Financial Advisor. I spent significant time doing research and learning how to operate the Bloomberg console, a skill that is helpful working in the financial sector.

Through networking I found out there was a full-time position they were looking to fill. While unconventional since I was an intern, I asked if I could interview for the position. They accepted my idea and I began the interview process. Although I had repeated interviews and UBS expressed interest, I was not given the position.

Alternatively, I was asked to extend my internship through the fall. I have

since been given responsibilities that mimic the role of the full-time position. This includes learning the systems used in the Wealth Management department and recruiting potential clients.

The international awareness I learned through the IPED program greatly enhanced my ability to understand the global dynamic of the Wealth Management Department. A lot of my time is spent analyzing the interaction of different nations, entities and international groups. Knowledge on how the prices of related commodities impact trading proved especially helpful.

This experience has taught me valuable lessons. First, it pays off to be proactive. Second, being a team player in projects demonstrates characteristics



employers desire. Finally, it is important to network. My willingness to talk with other financial advisors led to an extension of my internship. This extension has provided the opportunity to further my skill set which will be applicable in my future career.

### *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.*

I spent my summer internship with the E-Government Branch of the United Nations Secretariat. The E-Government Branch is part of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (“DESA”). DESA supports the General Secretary and the Economic and Social Council with timely research and policy advice. DESA's primary mission is to promote the economic development of all member states.

The E-Government Branch produces a biannual report known as the Global E-Government Survey. The Survey assesses member states' online offerings with respect to information, services, and participation in policy-making. Many member states use the Survey to help drive investment in e-government.

My specific duties involved multiple aspects regarding the data used in the biannual report. This included overseeing data collection, conducting quality control tests, analyzing and presenting the data, and drafting language for the Survey. The data collection process was an involved effort consisting of substantial logistical challenges. The survey assesses 193 countries on nearly 200 different points, resulting in a total data population of nearly 40,000 discrete observations. This effort was completed by nearly two dozen interns as well as additional project participants in Norway and Sweden.

The internship was beneficial in several ways. First, it presented a fantastic



Aaron Gardner with staff at the UN-eGovernment Branch in New York.

opportunity to learn the United Nations system from the inside. Second, it allowed me to meet many people from a wide variety of cultural, professional, and educational backgrounds. Third, it showed me how technology can be used in support of economic development objectives. Finally, it provided multiple opportunities to apply both the conceptual and practical knowledge I gained at IPED. I greatly enjoyed the work and my new colleagues, and I am currently planning to remain at the internship at least through November.

***“it provided multiple opportunities to apply both the conceptual and practical knowledge I gained at IPED. “***



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