Cody Harder Works on the Digital Battlefield with UN Women in Kenya

Last summer, I interned in Nairobi, Kenya with UN Women — the UN Entity for Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women. I worked in the communications and advocacy unit for the East and Southern Africa Regional Office (ESARO). While this wasn’t my only experience in Harambee country, it was my first time managing an organization’s media and press relations while closely working with international donors.

In my first week, I documented a three-day Rockefeller Foundation and UN Women-sponsored workshop on post-harvest mango technology and value-added products. The machines used in the workshop were designed to help women farmers reduce post-harvest losses and expand their businesses.

UN Women ESARO supports regional country offices in programming, monitoring and evaluation, operations and management, training initiatives, and, of course, communications.

Throughout my three months in Kenya, I was tasked with creating, designing, and editing compelling UN Women content to help achieve the last of these support areas. Much of my time was spent on the digital battlefield of women’s rights and gender issues. I established a regional YouTube channel with accompanying graphic art, Tweeted, Flickr-ed, and posted to Facebook and Instagram.

There is certainly a yawning gap between my internship experience and time as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Madagascar. Yet the two complement each other in ways I underappreciated or overlooked.

I learned how powerful branding is for any organization. Acquiring the social media savvy and skills to promote a company can have far-reaching benefits.

(Continued on page 4)
After spending the first half of our summer learning French in Montpellier, France with Alliance Francaise, we headed to Musanze, Rwanda for a Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) internship with True Vineyard Ministries.

True Vineyard helps Rwandan women suffering from HIV/AIDS, hunger, marginalization, and a lack of basic necessities. Its employment training, counseling, and communal savings groups assist women in regaining financial, social, and emotional stability. True Vineyard also offers a lay counseling program to teach people about PTSD and train individuals in counseling techniques to better support their community.

"I think everyone should take this training," said John, an administrator at a local vocational school who trained with True Vineyard. "It touches on everything, from power to leadership to trauma. It can really transform our society. It changed the way I interact even with my own family members. I try to help my students learn about counseling."

Before our internship, we contacted counseling organizations about M&E system best practices. We then developed an M&E system to analyze goals and outcomes through a logical framework model, to measure True Vineyard’s impact, and to communicate that impact to funders.

In Rwanda, we interviewed nuns, school administrators, pastors, and high school girls to learn how True Vineyard improved their lives. After 35 phone interviews, several focus groups, and a visit to True Vineyard, we produced a report to evaluate the program and seek new partnerships. This report and our baseline data collection and survey methods will help True Vineyard continue its mission of helping women in Rwanda to thrive.

Last summer, I interned with the Rockefeller Foundation in New York. Rockefeller is a legacy philanthropy that promotes humanity’s well-being with bold bets on innovative solutions to global challenges. It was a major player in developing the public health field, supporting the League of Nations’ creation, and advancing the Green Revolution.

My internship was with the Resilience and Global Governance team. I conducted consultations with expert money managers, insurers, credit raters, and real estate developers to compile an investor landscape report that will inform the team’s valuation strategy and amplify the appeal of resilience projects. My work also involved drafting pre-proposal documents for grants and supporting the development of new principles and decision criteria that will guide future funding efforts.

One of the most exciting parts of my internship was seeing a literature review I penned circulated to all staff members. It was inspiring to be part of such an impressive legacy and fulfilling to have my work shape some of the Foundation’s future endeavors. The internship helped me understand how philanthropy, non-profits, government, and the private sector coordinate projects in international development.

The Foundation has paid internships with many exciting teams throughout the year. My advice to anyone interested in applying is to be enthusiastic. John D. Rockefeller said he would rather hire someone with enthusiasm than someone who knows everything. This sentiment is still integral to the Foundation.
This summer, I interned at Morgan Stanley’s Rockefeller Plaza office in Midtown Manhattan. I was the only intern for the Transfer Pricing Group, a unit under the firm’s corporate tax team. Morgan Stanley (MS) is a global financial services firm that operates across 52 countries, offering investment banking services through institutional securities and wealth and investment management. All its business units employ transfer pricing (TP), a methodology used to determine how revenues and costs are taxed and allocated to appropriate government authorities. TP seeks to achieve a tax efficient result for both multinational firms and governments by establishing an “arm’s length price” — the price of tangible or intangible assets and services that would be achieved in various transactions between two independent parties. TP ensures that prices in intercompany transactions meet the arm’s length standard so no tax regulation is violated. MS’s Transfer Pricing Group focuses solely on the allocation of revenues and costs among MS’s business units.

My responsibilities were directed toward providing quality control reviews for MS’s revenue and cost sharing agreements and creating TP documentation reports. These reports were sent to the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development and tax authorities in several countries. Most reports I prepared were sent to regulators in Canada, Mexico, and Europe.

The biggest project I worked on involved the Advanced Pricing Agreement (APA), an ahead-of-time tax agreement between the United States, Japan, and London that will span the next three years. By the end of summer, the agreement was presented at the IRS headquarters in Washington, DC.

IPED’s International Banking and Finance coursework provided me with the necessary background knowledge on financial institutions to conduct TP analyses. In particular, the Global Financial Markets and Politics of Global Economic Relations courses were useful in my analysis of this multilateral undertaking.

The internship gave my fellow interns and me the opportunity to attend workshops and conferences to hone our skills as professionals in the financial services industry. Ultimately, my MS experience was a great way to immerse myself in banking and finance and develop my capacities as an aspiring financial analyst.

I spent the summer of 2017 as an intern with the U.S. Department of State at the U.S. Consulate to Guayaquil, Ecuador. I served in both the Consulate and Public Affairs Sections. This internship was a great way to learn more about the State Department and U.S. diplomacy in Latin America.

As a Public Affairs Section intern, I collaborated with local partners to manage Misión Manabí, a project designed to encourage and train entrepreneurs through a series of workshops in the coastal region of Manabí. This region was hit particularly hard by the 7.8-magnitude earthquake in April 2016, which killed more than 600 people and left homes and businesses destroyed. The workshop’s goal was to help promote economic growth and provide support and training to 100 local businesses still struggling to recover from the devastation.

Jessica Way Explores Diplomacy in Ecuador
This is especially true when relying on funding from external sources.

The internship will allow me to present an additional asset to organizations seeking to leverage the power of communications in the 21st century and strengthen donor support in the international development field. Most importantly, it gave me the opportunity to explore and refine a personal hobby while contributing to a greater good: the advancement of gender equality and women’s empowerment.

I am especially grateful to the Foreign Service family that hosted me during the summer. My time in Ecuador reaffirmed my interest in the public sector. I recommend an internship with the State Department to anyone who is interested in working in international diplomacy. It allows students to learn more about various career channels and familiarize themselves with life as a public servant abroad.

Jessica Way, Guayaquil, Ecuador

Through this experience, I also learned about visa processes and managing biometric screening for hundreds of Ecuadorian visa applicants each day.

My internship gave me the opportunity to participate in public diplomacy and learn about the functions of the Consulate to Guayaquil. The Foreign Service Officers and other employees at the consulate welcomed me into their community and helped me to explore professional opportunities with the State Department and to learn more about the culture of Ecuador.

I recommend an internship with the State Department to anyone who is interested in working in international diplomacy. It allows students to learn more about various career channels and familiarize themselves with life as a public servant abroad.

Jessica Way, Guayaquil, Ecuador

(Continued from page 3)

IPED Student Assignments Summer 2017

Crisostomo Ala, Catholic Relief Services (Ecuador) and Emerging Markets (South Africa)

Carlos Baeta, Fordham IPED Research Associate (New York)

Edward Barbini, Westchester Intelligence Center (White Plains, NY) and Emerging Markets (South Africa)

Viktoriia Brezhneniuk, Fordham IFLA and UNDP Equator Initiative (New York)

Moses Cam, Morgan Stanley (New York) and Emerging Markets (South Africa)

Erika Cox, French Language Study (France)

Angeli Diamante, Spanish Language Study (Bolivia) and Emerging Markets (South Africa)

Robyn Emory, Mandarin Language Study as Critical Language Scholar (China)

Owen Fitzgerald, French Language Study (France) and UNDP Interfaith Rainforest Initiative (Norway)

Luther Flagstad, U.S. Department of State (Kazakhstan) and Emerging Markets (South Africa)

Kelsey Garcia, Rockefeller Foundation (New York)

Cody Harder, UN Women (Kenya)

Therese Hart, Chauk Women’s Council (Micronesia) and French Language Study (France)

Maggie Hutchison, French Language Study (France) and True Vineyard Ministries (Rwanda)

Michael Johnson, Millennium Challenge Corporation (Washington, DC) and Emerging Markets (South Africa)

Liia Khalikova, UN Security Council Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (New York) and Emerging Markets (South Africa)

Samantha Kinney, Emerging Markets (South Africa)

Jessica Way, U.S. Department of State (Ecuador) and Borlaug Summer Institute on Global Food Security (Purdue University, Indiana)

Alexander Zakrzewski, UN Department of Public Information NGO Relations (New York) and Arabic Language Study (Palestine)

IPED Summer Internships

During the three-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. Visit iped.fordham.edu and ipednews.blog.fordham.edu to learn more.

Cody Harder, Kenya

(Continued from page 1)

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