International Programs Travel Grant Final Report         September 9, 2011

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Proposal Title: Tanzania Literacy Project
Place and Date of Travel: Kongwa, Tanzania June 12 to June 26, 2011

Due to complications arising from “vendor payment discussions” the SDSU student service –learning course was advertised very late with CES in 2010. Most students had committed themselves to summer study before my course was fully advertised. Consequently I was only able to take 2 students from the School of Theatre, Television, and Film who were completing an “international experience requirement.” Nevertheless we were able to achieve three major projects at the school:

1. The refurbishing of the classroom used by the youngest children in the school.
2. The purchase of 500 high quality Swahili textbooks for the library constructed and opened in 2010.
3. The building of a goathouse and a herd of goats, both purchased as part of the Goats For Kids lunch program.

Above is the Kindergarten prior to refurbishing.
Workmen begin scraping the walls of the kindergarten prior to painting the day after we arrived in Kongwa and signed the contract.

We purchased the 500 Swahili textbooks in Dar es Salaam and delivered them to the school. A generous Phi Kappa Phi Literacy Grant enabled this purchase. SDSU student Aaron Almuina (below) purchased 12 tables and chairs for the kindergarten – to be constructed by a local carpentry shop.
A herd of goats was purchased and a brick and mortar goathouse constructed for the Goats For Kids program.

Tree planting with SDSU students
And finally I was able to deliver 300 of the drinking vessels donated by Starbucks – together with mosquito nets for the smallest children (center).

We are starting to reach out to other schools in the district. Kongwa Secondary School received four laptop computers from Britain. I purchased goats and paid for a small goathouse to be built for the Primary School in the small village of
Songambele which the 2010 SDSU group visited. This goathouse will be enlarged and further goats purchased during the 2012 visit.

In 2012 the group will stay longer in Kongwa, will assess the success of existing projects, and will prepare a shamba (a plot of land used for cultivation) for the supply of maize porridge (uji) for the lunch program. We are hoping the Goats For Kids Program will be fully sustainable without outside funding by 2013. At present parents donate maize meal for the porridge. The next project, for which I am currently raising funds, is the collection of rainwater to be used to water the shamba throughout the year.

Below is a rainwater collection system at a school in Zululand which I visited this year.