



# BENJAMIN N. DUKE

Scholarship Program

## INTERNATIONAL SUMMER OF SERVICE POSTER PRESENTATION 2010

On October 14, 2010 fourteen BN Duke and Trinity Scholars presented posters documenting their International Summers of Service. The International Summer of Service provides funding for an intensive, self-designed learning experience for scholars after their sophomore or junior year. The goals of this experience include serving and immersing oneself in a community far different from one's own, pursuing one's interests and passions, stretching oneself in significant, purposeful ways, and enhancing one's understanding of the world. During the poster presentation, scholars articulated what they had hoped to achieve through this experience, what they actually got out of it, and how the experience is influencing and affecting their next steps. The format of a poster presentation prompted them to critically reflect on their experience, sharpen their communication and presentation skills, and was an effective way to share their leadership and service with their peers and the broader Duke community. Scholars presenting posters traveled to thirteen different countries and served in a variety of ways. Below are some highlights.



Senior Scholar Hilary Cole traveled to Mexico and Costa Rica. She worked as a sea turtle volunteer with an NGO called Pronatura, monitoring nesting beaches and recording data. In Costa Rica, she worked as a research assistant at La Selva Biological Research Station, helping various research teams collect data for their projects. She commented, "These experiences were incredibly helpful to me to learn about different aspects of the environmental field, and to focus my career goals. Interacting with the resources that conservationists strive to protect is an incredibly meaningful opportunity."



In the picture below, junior John Deans (on the left) talks with senior Rui Jiang about his experience in Farende, Togo. (Rui had spent her international summer there the previous summer.) Both students were supervised by Duke faculty member Dr. Charlie Piot, the Creed C. Black Associate Professor of Cultural Anthropology and African and African American Studies. John spent the first two weeks interviewing the community to assess their needs and then committed himself to working to better integrate the informal, traditional health system with the western, clinic system. He states, "I interviewed "guerisseur" (traditional healers) and then held a meeting between local guerisseurs and the clinic on how to build a relationship and improve patient safety and outcomes. The experience has given me a new perspective on the challenges of development and taught me that sometimes, incremental steps toward change can be just as valuable and rewarding as sweeping overhauls while also being more durable."



Senior Matthew Keshian's summer experience spanned two countries: Phnom Penh, Cambodia and Ao Nang, Thailand. In Cambodia he trained mentor to teach leadership principles to students and in Thailand, he dealt with ecological challenges of developing countries by monitoring reef health and educating the local population on conservation. (See his poster on our website on the Summer of Service page.)



Here, junior Alice Yen (on the left) talks with Rui Jiang and Dr. George Dubay, Research Associate from the Chemistry department, about how her personal interests in food and health policy resulted in, "research with the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) in Malawi and the International Obesity Task Force (IOTF) in the United Kingdom. While in Malawi, I conducted fieldwork research investigating farmers' perceptions of climate change and their adaptive agricultural strategies. In the United Kingdom, I studied food marketing to children in developed and developing nations. This summer, I have witnessed how research can impact and serve the good of society at large. I have broadened my understanding of food policy and am excited to continue my discovery of the intersecting roles food, agriculture, and health hold with one another."

Nancy Yang, a junior, elaborates on her summer experience to sophomore Casey Edwards:

“This summer I traveled to Naama, Uganda as one of ten members of the Project Naama - Community Health and Development Team. Our goal was to work collaboratively with the community to improve the health, well-being and general development of the entire village. To accomplish our goal, the following projects were implemented: developed and taught science and nutrition lessons at Naama Millennium Primary School; implemented a solar water disinfection project; established an EMS health insurance program; planned and ran a community wide health fair; led a girl's life skills club at Naama Secondary School; established and trained a women's microfinance group; researched palliative care, maternal and child nutrition, emergency obstetric services, water purification and sanitation and traditional medicine; and much more. Working on Project Naama provided the perfect opportunity for me to fuse and further cultivate my personal passions for health, nutrition, soccer and service; it furthered my determination to pursue medicine and my dedication to service. My time in Uganda was humbling, aweing and eye-opening and really brought to fruition and showed me the true meaning of community, empathy, intentionality and imagination.”



Anthony Sanderson, a senior, describes his summer in Kakamega, Kenya to Executive Director of the Career Center, Bill Wright-Swadell. Working through Foundation for Sustainable Development, Anthony was matched with a microfinance nonprofit organization, K-Rep Development Agency. There, he gained valuable knowledge about the process of microfinance, how to assist low-income people start their own businesses, and how organizations operate and become more efficient.

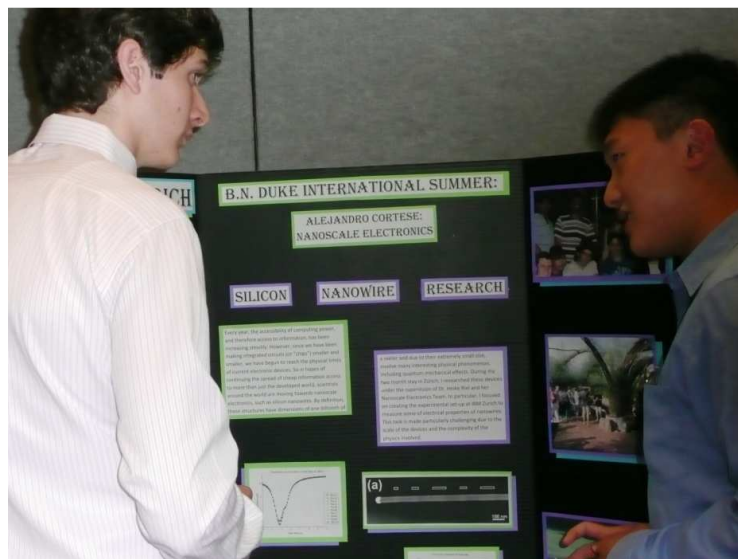


In the background, senior and Truman Scholar, Lindsey Wallace (on the right), talks to sophomore Jacqueline Stedman about her summer at the Lilongwe Wildlife Center in Malawi. While in the foreground, senior Snayha Nath (on the right), talks to Rajlakshmi De (a Trinity Scholar) about her time in Cape Town, South Africa working on women's rights and refugee's rights. The summer helped in her decision to pursue law school and gave her exposure to the prevailing issues the nation is facing

David Oberst also had a very interesting summer in Cape Town. Through Projects Abroad, David was placed in a center for women who are victims of domestic violence. There, he “helped implement a technology skills teaching program. I also improved their website and wrote a guide on how to update it. This was important because it later allowed several of these women to break away from these abusive relationships and pursue independent income sources on their own; some of them got jobs at a local university doing basic marketing research using their newfound skills. This has made me realize that I want my career to have a profound impact on how people use computers and interact with them; the difficulty of teaching people how to use computers made me realize just how much of a need there is to improve outreach and education in technology.” In this picture, David (on the left) is chatting with Dr. Michael Gustafson II, Associate Professor of the Practice in Electrical and Computer Engineering at Duke, and sophomore David Hong.



“Every year, the accessibility of computing power, and therefore access to information, has been increasing steadily. However, since we have been making integrated circuits (or “chips”) smaller and smaller, we have begun to reach the physical limits of current electronic devices. So in hopes of continuing the spread of cheap information access to more than just the developed world, scientists around the world are moving towards nanoscale electronics, such as silicon nanowires. By definition, these structures have dimensions of one billionth of a meter and due to their extremely small size, involve many interesting physical phenomenon, including quantum mechanical effects. During my two month stay working in Zürich at the IBM Zürich Research Laboratory, I researched these devices under the supervision of Dr. Heike Riel and the Nanoscale Electronics Team that she manages. In particular, I focused on creating the experimental set-up at IBM Zurich to measure some of electrical properties of nanowires. The experience of working alongside the NE Team helped solidify my plans to pursue a career in physics and understand what it takes to lead a team of researchers towards concrete goals” Junior Alejandro Cortese (on the left) describes his work to sophomore, Xiaoyang Zhuang.



All in all, it was a successful, educational, and engaging evening for everyone who attended, and we look forward to next year’s presenters!



John Deans, was pleasantly surprised by the arrival of Kouwènam and Tikénawé from the rural mountain village of Kuwdé, Togo where he spent his summer of service. Dr. Charlie Piot is the faculty advisor for the project.



Tikénawé and Rui Jiang.



BN Duke Alum and Assistant Director of Duke Chapel PathWays, Adam Hollowell, speaking with Lindsey Wallace and Snayha Nath.



Junior Lauren Anderson talks with Alum Josh Setzer about her summer in Mongolia working at an orphanage in Ulaanbaatar as well as living with a nomad family.



Senior Hannah Hellebush talks to Trinity Scholar Seniors Kathryn Hutchins and Hannah Hunt, and junior Alice Yen about her time teaching and mentoring ninth graders in Cape Town and then teaching English to first through sixth graders in Thailand. Both experiences “instilled in me a sense of how important education access is to international development.” (Not seen in the picture is Hilary Cole.)



Senior, Kathryn Hutchins talks to Dr. Gustafson about her summer of service working in healthcare in Guadalajara and Jalisco, Mexico.

