

To: Steve Smith

From: Gina Paul

Re: Summary of Scholar Access Grant Project Report

When I applied for the Scholar Access Grant, my research plan included consulting with and interviewing International Studies specialists and IHAC members, researching research funding opportunities, and developing a curriculum based on the information I received. During the week of August 1, 2005 I interviewed Dr. C. Haq, Dr. C. Gjerde, Ms. L. DiPrete Brown of the Global Health Program, Ms. Marge Sutinen of the Midwest AIDS Training & Education Center, Ms. E. McNamara of the African Studies Program, Mr. J. Ferrick of the CALS Study Abroad Program, and two medical students that recently returned from Dr. Haq's Uganda N590 class trip, Mr. R. Sydnor and Mr. P. McKenna. I found everyone to be extremely helpful and willing to provide me with the information that I need to develop and successfully execute an AIDS internship program in Lusaka, Zambia. As a result of obtaining this information, I also believe my request for funding will be stronger because it will show that I have thoroughly researched every aspect of creating a study abroad program.

I meet with Dr. Haq my first morning in Madison, and she recommended that I develop very specific educational objectives for the internship program. While I had previously thought about them, I realized they needed to be written and evaluated. Before my next meeting with her later that day, I formed sixteen educational objectives; Dr. Haq believed them to be specific and thorough. Dr. Haq then spoke about the itinerary she had set up for her Health and Disease in Uganda class trip; this was

extremely helpful for planning the course trip because I had not thought of these types of activities; I was using an itinerary that had been set up for Carbondale, IL community members that visited Zambia in July. She suggested having the students meet with Embassy personnel, government officials, and visit the medical school to build a relationship with the SIUC School of Medicine in the first several days as the students become acclimated. To plan how the program could progress, Dr. Haq also suggested: 1) specific sessions to address cultural differences and stress management/emotional problems that might arise, 2) the use of journals and problem-solving activities for evaluation purposes, and 3) to expect the unexpected and how to be prepared for the unexpected. My interviews with Dr. Haq's students allowed me to understand how the students perceived their experience and about the few minor problems that arose and how well Dr. Haq addressed them; overall, they were very pleased with the experience and wished they could have stayed longer.

Lori DiPrete Brown provided me with some excellent resources that ranged from the pre-trip requirement checklist to curriculum materials that are used in the Health and Disease in Uganda class; these materials will help me develop my course materials in preparing students for the trip. In addition, Ms. Brown gave me insights into the importance of making the first trip more of an advisors trip for planning purposes rather than a student-focused trip.

Dr. Gjerde, Mr. Ferrick, Ms. Sutinen, and Ms. McNamara all spoke about: 1) the importance of expecting the unexpected and being flexible, 2) the use of journals for evaluation and for identifying students having stress-related problems, 3) the dangers that exist in finding reliable drivers and vehicles, 4) getting cell phones to communicate

between advisors, 5) health and emergency issues, 6) taking gifts/certificates of appreciation, 7) safety issues, 8) record keeping (i.e., copies of passports, SS numbers, emergency numbers), and 9) addressing cultural and social differences. While there were common themes that everyone spoke about, each faculty member also gave me unique insights and suggestions that I will use in planning and executing the AIDS internship program that I am developing.

I thank the Global Studies Program for the opportunity to come to Madison and all the faculty members willing to meet with me; everyone was very generous in sharing their personal experiences and offering me the resources they developed and/or used. I also want to thank Ms. Melissa Coons from the Global Health Program in setting up appointments and helping me obtain materials. In receiving this scholar grant, I feel very confident about developing a quality study abroad program that will enhance my students' learning and their lives as future physicians.