

## TUMAINI/ELCA FACULTY DEVELOPMENT ALLIANCE

### JANUARY 2009 SUMMARY

Since the year 2000 when Arne Selbyg, Cheryl Chatman and Shoonie Hartwig visited Tumaini University sites in Tanzania, the process of this alliance has gone through many stages in our understanding of mutual needs and in the implementation of programs to further this end. Eight plus years later, we have had a joint conference between ELCA and Tumaini faculty all of whom wrote papers about HIV/AIDS and gender. Carthage College, Augustana College Rock Island, St. Olaf College, Luther College and Gustavus Adolphus College welcomed Tanzania scholars for a six week research stay at their respective campuses; one group in Fall 2007 and a second group in Fall 2008.

**2008:** In January, Marilyn Olson, Arne Selbyg and Shoonie Hartwig met with five academic deans and/or representatives at the ELCA churchwide office to determine how we might move forward. We reached the following agreement:

- ELCA/VE – Marilyn Olson – would provide the coordinating center in communication between Tumaini and ELCA colleges.
- Hunger monies were available for 2008 to bring Tanzania scholars to the US for six weeks.
- ELCA faculty could apply for a six week stay in Tanzania in June/July 2009.

Carthage, St. Olaf and Luther welcomed their scholars on September 15 said goodbye to them on October 25, 2008.

The following is a brief account from Marilyn Olson regarding her visit to Carthage on October 9, 2008:

- ✚ As in 2007, housing worked extremely well for Ms Aiwe Mmari (Lecturer, Department of Communication and Dean of Students, Stefano Moshi Memorial University College). She had her own space in the home Jean Preston, director of the college's writing center. Ms Mmari was welcomed as "family" and had many wonderful experiences with the Preston family.
- ✚ Careful attention was given to Ms Mmari's mentors, who invited her to sit in on classes, attend colloquiums, and give presentations. It was clear from my conversation with them that there was mutual professional respect and friendship among them. Ms Mmari also very much appreciated the support and guidance of Pastor Harvard Stephens, the dean of the chapel.
- ✚ Library assistance was provided, as well as office space and a computer for her exclusive use.
- ✚ Ms Mmari produced two drafts of her research project, "Developing a Curriculum of English as a Foreign Language: Who should be involved and how to implement it?". She developed a pertinent questionnaire that was provided to stakeholders at Carthage. Her plan was to collect more data upon her return to Tanzania, analyze it and produce a curriculum for teaching.

The following is a brief account from Dr. Shoonie Hartwig regarding her visits to Luther/St. Olaf on October 15 & 16, 2008:

- ✚ Housing worked well. At Luther, Daniel Pallangyo (Dean of Law at Makumira) had a basement apartment in the home of a couple who have Tanzanian connections.
- ✚ Dr. Sarah Urasa, (Medical Doctor at KCMC/HIV clinic) roomed with other international scholars at St. Olaf.
- ✚ In both settings, the careful attention to each scholar by assigned mentors worked well.
- ✚ Library assistance was provided, which was most beneficial.
- ✚ Both scholars had an article ready to submit for publication upon their return to Tanzania.

Our heart -felt thanks to all who made this possible. Truly, for each scholar, this may be a once in a lifetime experience to focus totally on their own research and professional development. The ripple effect to their respective institutions cannot be overstated. The prestige this will bring to MUCO and KCMC in particular is almost as significant as what this does for the scholars. All three scholars, Aiwe Mmari, Sarah Urasa and Daniel Pallangyo expressed their appreciation to all who made their time here so meaningful.

Recommendations:

- ✚ Prior to the next Tumaini visit, assigned mentors and other faculty need to meet to outline a calendar for the six week stay. During the six week period there could be events on campus, meetings with faculty and students, visiting classes and/or guest lecturing, library orientation, meetings with international students and Tanzanians in particular, weekend drives and or church invitations, etc. Information regarding the surrounding area could be included. NOTE: It would be helpful to have feedback from the seven (7) Tumaini scholars from 2007 and 2008 regarding what was helpful to them, what was productive and a good use of their time, and what could have been eliminated.

By pre-planning a calendar of events and activities, the 'busy factor' which is the plight of all faculty here, might be addressed by spreading the responsibility to many, thereby assuring that these scholars are not overscheduled, but at the same time not left with too much open time when they could be actively engaged and maximizing their time in the region.

- ✚ Investigate distance learning possibilities for Tanzanians needing advanced degrees.
- ✚ Investigate library resources needed, particularly journals digitalized.

**2009:** The next part of this exchange was for ELCA faculty to be in Tanzania during June/July. Marilyn and Shoonie discussed the economic and time issues. Although Tumaini proposed that ELCA faculty come in June/July for six weeks, it became apparent that classes there will be on break. In addition, given the overall financial meltdowns, Hunger fund availability for next year to support this program will be less than originally anticipated.

During our visits at Carthage and Luther/Olaf, a discussion with faculty and the respective academic deans suggested that a change in venue was in order. Initially it was suggested that the six-week program be shortened to three weeks. The first half of the time would be spent at

Mwangaza Center with select Tumaini faculty and the second half would be spent visiting nearby Tumaini sites. However, following further consideration and conversation, it was concluded that 2009 would not be a prudent time to send ELCA faculty to Tanzania. Due to the extreme down-turn in the US and world economy, many of the ELCA colleges and universities have curtailed or eliminated all “non-essential travel.”

**Conclusion:** There will be no faculty visits in 2009.

**2010:** Many of the colleges and universities related to the ELCA have what is called a “J-Term” or “January Term.” Therefore, we propose that selected ELCA faculty travel to Tanzania for a three week period in January 2010. These 4-6 faculty members would be assigned to a specific Tumaini site. The following are highlights of this new proposal:

- ✚ While Dr. Shoonie Hartwig is in Tanzania in late February/March 2009, she will arrange to visit at least four Tumaini sites: MUCO (Makumira University College), KCMC Kilimanjaro Christian Medical College), SEKUCo (Sebastian Kolowa University College) and SSMUCo (Stefano Moshi Memorial University College). Since classes would be in session, she could meet with designated faculty, Vice Provosts and others regarding mentoring, accommodations, and other particulars in preparation for ELCA faculty the following January.
- ✚ In late February, an invitation for proposals will be sent to ALL ELCA-related college and university faculty announcing a three week initiative in Tanzania for January 2010. (NOTE: This is a departure from limiting the invitation to the five in the pilot program. In addition, the number of ELCA faculty will be determined by budget and discipline.)
- ✚ Applications/proposals will be due to both Hartwig and Olson by April 15, 2009.
- ✚ Names and disciplines of those selected will be sent to Dr. John Shao by the first of May 2009.

As Dr. Shoonie Hartwig so beautifully stated, “To all who have contributed to this alliance with your time, energy and steadfast commitment, it is a testimony to what minds and hearts can do despite external factors that might cause many to pause or stop. Asanteeni sana!”