

J460 Reporting On HIV/AIDS in Africa
Summer Session I, 2010
with course-based travel May 21 to June 12

Indiana University School of Journalism
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A. Basic Description of the Program

The course will educate IU journalism students about the culture of East Africa, the HIV/AIDS epidemic with particular emphasis on the impact in Kenya, and the role and practice of health reporting in Kenya and the United States. The proposed course would take place during the first summer session of 2010 and would include a 17-day stay at the IU House in Eldoret and a four-day visit to the media houses of Nairobi. The goal is to improve students' reporting skills by requiring each to research the topic of HIV in Africa and then produce a series of feature reports on the work of the IU-Kenya Partnership in Eldoret using text, still photos, audio and video produced into multimedia packages presented on the School of Journalism's Web site and other publication outlets.

The mission is to educate IU journalism students about the culture of East Africa, the HIV/AIDS epidemic, particularly in Kenya, and the role and practice of health reporting about the epidemic to audiences in Kenya and the United States.

The course will be the first summer session (six weeks) and will meet daily. The overseas portion of the class will be May 21 to June 14 and the course will conclude on June 17. There will be 10-12 students, two professors, and a staff member.

B. Rationale

This course is the fifth in the School of Journalism's Experiences Program, and the first in Africa. We believe the international travel will complement the classroom-based learning in a way no other experience could. Reporting skills can be obtained only through actual practice. Reporting on an issue in a developing context can only be done in the developing world and can only be done effectively with the help of a local collaborator. A key component of this course is that each IU student will be paired with a Kenyan student in communication at Moi University in Eldoret. The two will act as a reporting team. The Kenyan will know the local language, customs and geography. The IU student will have strong journalism reporting skills and state-of-the-art equipment.

All IU and MU students will meet daily at the Moi University Teaching and Referral Hospital for a classroom session lead by an IU and MU professor. The teams will be reconstituted every four days so that by the end of the Eldoret stay, each IU student will have been teammates with three MU students. This team approach accomplishes two basic needs. One, IU students will learn cooperation and teamwork in an international context. Cultural understanding will be greatly enhanced by the lesson of close

collaboration. Two, IU student safety will be much enhanced by the continuous presence of a local-language speaker with knowledge of local customs and practices.

The IU Medical School has a near 20-year history with Moi University's Medical School. The IU-Kenya Partnership is now an extensive collaborative program that serves as a model for how both health development and inter-university cooperation ought to be done. Kelly obtained an OVPIA Overseas Study Development Travel Grant and spent 10 days in Kenya this summer meeting with Partnership administrators, with MU faculty, and with journalists in Eldoret and in Nairobi. All were enthusiastic about the course and all pledged support.

Because Kenya is currently under a U.S. Department of State Travel Advisory, particular attention has been paid to ensuring the safety of students while in country. Kelly stayed one week in the IU House in Eldoret, a secure compound of eight buildings operated by IU for the housing and maintenance of its personnel in Eldoret. Students will stay at the IU House. Access to the compound is controlled by IU-employed guards at two gates and by electric fence. The other key safety consideration is transportation. Local transportation will be exclusively by licensed taxi and only when accompanied by an assigned local student from MU. Travel outside the Eldoret area will be in University operated vehicles only. This is the advice given to the medical students, hospital volunteers and staff who stay at the IU House and will be strictly adhered to by students in the class. Additionally, each IU student will be issued a mobile phone upon arrival and will be required to carry it at all times so that he/she can communicate with fellow students and team leaders should an emergency arise.

Dr. Kelly has traveled several times to about ten east African cities and has stayed in Nairobi four times now. His evaluation of Eldoret is that daylight travel by foot between the IU House, the Hospital, and the downtown is as safe as in Bloomington, but that travel after sunset is inadvisable. Daylight travel outside the downtown area of Eldoret is also reasonably safe provided that licensed taxi is used.

Nairobi is the media center of east Africa. The two largest east African media groups are headquartered there, as are most of the international news services. The Nation Group, The Standard Group have agreed to host our students for four-hour sessions during which they will meet with top editors and reporters. The BBC, CNN, Agence France-Presse, Reuters, Deutsche Welle and the Associated Press also have headquarters in Nairobi. Visits to four that maintain offices in the downtown area will be arranged.

Students will stay at The Oakwood Hotel, a tourist class hotel in the city center. The Oakwood is located just one block from the Hilton, across the street from the New Stanley Hotel, and within five blocks of all of the media offices we will visit. Dr. Kelly inspected the hotel during his preparatory visit in June 09. A guard is posted at the entrance after nightfall. Students will stay two to a room. Meals will be taken as a group in the hotel or at any one of a dozen restaurants within two blocks of the hotel. The center of Nairobi is reasonably safe during daylight hours. Students will travel only in a group lead by the IU faculty members, and the group will travel no more than three blocks of the hotel after sunset.

C. Eligibility

All students must have a 3.0 minimum GPA and be at least junior standing. Undergraduate students must have completed J110, J200 and J210. Graduate students must have completed J505 or have been exempted. This class is only open to School of Journalism students.

D. Orientation Programming

The first pre-departure orientation session will be a one-hour session the week of April 4. This will allow the registered students to meet the professors and each other. The session will focus on logistical preparations like what to wear in Kenya, what to pack, how to travel, and how to prepare. We will provide them with lists and schedules so that they have plenty of time to purchase or gather necessary items before the class meets since travel commences just two weeks into the course. We will also provide contact information for each of the locations where will reside during the trip and ask that it be sent to their parents or other contact persons. If possible, we will reserve a portion of the session for a Skype conversation with a Kenyan student or two.

There will be eight additional pre-departure orientation sessions prior to departure since every class meeting of the first two weeks of the session will, in part, be preparation for the Kenya experience. Andrea Morehead, Reporter/Producer at WTHR Indianapolis, reported on AMPATH from Eldoret in November 2008 and has agreed to guest lecture to the class. Additional guest lecturers will include Jill Stowers, Executive Director of Bloomington Hospital's Positive Link HIV testing and counseling program; Fran Quigley, IU-Kenya Partnership's Director of Operations and author of the course textbook; Myrta Pullium, former editor of the Indianapolis Star who has reported from Eldoret; Joe Coleman, IU Journalist-in-Resident and former AP Tokyo Bureau Chief; and a faculty member from the IU African Studies program, most probably Henry Wakungu, a Kenyan in SPEA. IU doctoral student Kioko Ireri, a former journalist in Nairobi, will work regularly with the students upon their return.

The School has compiled general orientation materials for international trips. Visas for Kenya may be obtained at the airport in Nairobi upon arrival. Vaccinations and recommendations for travel to Eldoret will be as per the 2009-2010 Orientation Guidebook for IU medical students. A copy of the Guidebook will be provided to each student.

E. Language Considerations

The *CIA Fact Book* lists English as one of two official languages of Kenya. The other is Kiswahili. The Kiswahili spoken in Eldoret is known as "Swang" and there are several local languages in use also. The IU House has an approved Kiswahili instructor, Mr. Wycleff, who will provide students with an introductory lesson and arrange for additional lessons upon demand. All middle-class residents and all Moi University students speak English. IU students will rely on their MU partners to translate Kiswahili and local languages for them while they are doing their reporting research.

F. Communication from Kenya

The IU House has wireless Internet available to all residents. Students can keep in touch most easily with parents via e-mail and Skype. While in Kenya, students will send regular reports back to the School of Journalism to be posted on its Web site: <http://www.journalism.indiana.edu/> and an article about the program will be published in the School of Journalism's alumni publication *Newswire*. But most significantly, by the end of the course students will post their reporting to the School's Web site, some will publish their work in the *Indiana Daily Student*, and most will offer their stories to professional media outlets throughout the Midwest.

G. Support services abroad

All students and faculty travelling to Kenya will register with the U.S. Embassy in Nairobi before departure (<https://travelregistration.state.gov/ibrs/ui/>). The faculty members will keep photocopies of all passports as well as contact information for the Embassy in Nairobi and the IU House and the Partnership Centre in Eldoret in case of a lost passport or other emergency. Copies of all passports and insurance cards will also be kept in Bloomington with the dean's assistant in Bloomington, who will be available to help in case of an emergency.

H. Health, Safety and Security

Our review of the country Consular Information Sheets for Kenya at <http://www.state.gov/travel/> and the Health Information for Travelers of the Centers for Disease Control at <http://www.cdc.gov/travel/> are reflected in the information below. IU has granted the School an exemption to its ban on overseas study travel countries with travel warnings in place based on the special circumstance that is the IU-Kenya Partnership and the enduring record that program has produced over the last two decades.

The U.S. Department of State currently has a travel advisory in effect for Kenya stating, "those considering travel to Kenya should evaluate their personal security situation in light of continuing threats from terrorism and the high rate of violent crime." [<http://www.state.gov/travel/>] Terrorist attacks on the U.S. Embassy in 1998 and on a hotel in Mombasa in 2002, as well as nationwide post-election violence in 2008 combined with high crime rates and cross-boarder conflict with Somalia have compelled the Department to maintain an advisory on the country almost continuously over the last decade. Eldoret is far from the Somali boarder and the major cities of Nairobi and Mombasa, but has not been spared either political or criminal violence. Dozens of people seeking refuge in a church in Eldoret were burned to death by a mob on in January 2008 following national elections. Political unrest has now all but vanished, but the State Department still retains a travel warning for visitors to Kenya in the light of the high incidence of violent crime and possible threat from terrorists.

The IU-Kenya Partnership has nevertheless managed to maintain the safety of dozens and dozens of visitors to the IU House and Eldoret since the election. This has been accomplished by exercising vigilance.

Prior to departure Dr. Kelly will discuss the importance of personal safety while in Eldoret and Nairobi. His experience in both cities allows him to speak directly to both

the real danger, and prudent responses and cautions. Guest speakers who have been to Eldoret and/or Nairobi will also address the safety issue so that students are well informed before departure. Each student will receive a copy of the U.S. State Department's brochure titled "A Safe Trip Abroad," with tips about avoiding illness and crime. The students will be encouraged to lock their valuables in the room safes at IU House and the Nairobi hotel. The State Department recommends Americans keep their passports with them at all times and students will be required to use an "on body" pouch. Because students will be carrying cameras that may attract the attention of thieves, students will be equipped with nondescript bags to carry them in and advised to show them only when necessary and to heed the prudent warnings of their Kenyan partners who are far more familiar with potentially precarious situations.

The pre-departure orientation will also cover health topics, such as avoiding eating unwashed fruits and vegetables, avoiding overexposure to the sun, and making sure to get enough sleep in an attempt to avoid exhaustion and altitude-related illnesses. [Eldoret is 7000 feet above sea level.] Additionally, the CDC recommends safeguards against insect bites and sunburn for travelers in Africa, so we will advise the students to pack sunscreen and insect repellent (including the treatment of clothing with permethrin), to sleep under netting (provided at both locations). Students are required to take a malaria prophylaxis prior to and during time in Kenya. Kelly will travel with a first aid kit including medicine for diarrhea and alcohol-based hand sanitizer. Obviously, should medical care be required in Eldoret, facilities are easily available. The State Department notes that "adequate medical services are available in Nairobi." The Nairobi Hospital is just one mile from The Oakwood Hotel.

The CDC recommends travelers be up-to-date on all routine vaccinations. Students must visit the Travel Nurse at the IU Health Center or their own family physician upon being accepted into the course and to obtain recommended vaccinations prior to departure. Students must hold passports valid until at least December 13, 2010. We will require students to enroll in the IU Overseas Study group health insurance plan that includes the State Department recommended coverage including \$50,000 Medical Evacuation. Both Moi T&R Hospital and Nairobi Hospital accept major credit cards as payment for treatment, but Dr. Kelly will nonetheless secure a travel advance and carry enough cash to cover an emergency.

This type of preparedness is the key to safety, but knowing what to be prepared for and when to take precautions requires intimate knowledge of one's surroundings. The key safety consideration for our students will be the pairing of IU students with Moi University students whenever they are outside the IU House compound. The MU students know the area, know the local customs, and know what is safe and what is not. To further ensure that knowledge of conditions is maintained, each IU student will be supplied with a mobile phone upon arrival and the numbers for every member of the IU group will be programmed into each phone. No one will leave the IU House without their phone and a supply of air time. Good information and good communication are the keys to safety.

I. Supplementary Activities

There will be a single excursion from Eldoret to Nakuru Game Park. The trip will be arranged by Kwa Kila Hali Safaris, the same agency the IU-Kenya and area excursions Partnership has for years worked with on transportation between Nairobi and Eldoret. They are completely reliable and will provide a safe visit to one of Africa's most unusual game parks. A reporter simply cannot understand Africa without some introduction to the wildlife and the relationship local people have with nature. A game park is not an ideal way to make this realization, but given safety concerns and logistics, it is our best option.

K. Student Budget

The School of Journalism will charge \$2000 for this program, not including the three-credit-hour tuition and fees. We will encourage students to apply for Hutton Honors College International Experiences Program grants to help cover that cost. The School of Journalism will underwrite about half of the total costs of the course. The fee is about enough to cover airfare. Room and board, cultural visits, local transportation, etc. will be paid for by the School. Personal expenses for previous journalism study tours to Japan, Korea, and Europe averaged around \$400 per students. Students in Kenya will likely spend significantly less.