Summer 2014: Tanzania
Mixayphone Bounvilay
This past summer Mixayphone worked on a policy options case study and volunteered at a non-profit organization in Moshi and Arusha, Tanzania. On the case study, her group, including KCMC fourth year medical students and Cornell students, worked on "obstetric fistula." Obstetric Fistula is a condition where there is an abnormal opening between a woman’s vagina and her bladder and/or rectum through which urine and/or feces can leak. This condition is very rare, almost non-existent, in the developed world but still prevalent in many developing countries. Women who endure such condition is constantly "wet" and experience adverse health outcomes such as infection, kidney diseases, depression and so on. The condition also has negative impacts on women’s marital, social and economic statuses. The primary cause of obstetric fistula is obstructed labor due to the lack of prenatal care and obstetric care in these regions of the world including Tanzania. The group gathered, reviewed, and summarized literatures relating to obstetric fistula in Tanzania and its current policies (if any). Group members also conducted interviews with the patients and doctors as well as nurses. The group then encapsulated all the information they had into a final policy option paper about Obstetric Fistula that Mixayphone is very proud of. During the second part of the program, she volunteered at a non-profit organization called UAACC (United African Alliance Community Center) teaching middle-high school students Vietnamese. She also did various activities with them such as batik art (brushing hot liquid wax onto a piece of cotton cloth in the desired pattern), traditional dances, playing soccer, and basketball. Apart from working with students, Mixayphone also actively interacted with people working at the organization learning about Tanzanian food, culture and lifestyle. The friendships she has built with people she met in Tanzania have become one of the most valuable treasures of her life.

Kathryn Comanici

Katie had never traveled outside of the United States before, but she chose the summer of 2014 to break that trend. She traveled to Moshi, Tanzania where she spent eight weeks learning about the local culture and trying enormous amounts of local cuisine. During the first four weeks of her summer, Katie worked with three KCMC medical students and one Cornell student to develop a collaborative case study focusing on herbal medicine use in Moshi, and how its use affected medical seeking behaviors. To do this, Katie and her group interviewed various local doctors, pharmacists, and herbalists. The four-week project culminated in both an extensive paper and a presentation to Kilimanjaro Christian Medical
Center staff and faculty. Katie spent the second four weeks of her trip working at a center run by the NGO Building a Caring Community (BCC). This NGO’s main focus is to provide a safe place for children with developmental and physical disabilities to go during the day. BCC prides itself on what it can offer the children who come to their various eleven centers around Moshi, including two nutritious meals daily. Looking back at these eight weeks, Katie can truly say she had the most meaningful and exciting summer of her life.

**Brenna Funfar**

Brenna spent eight weeks in Moshi, Tanzania as part of the Cornell organized Tanzania Summer Program. During the first four weeks, Brenna lived with a local homestay family and attended class of Kilimanjaro Christian Medical College (KCMC). She worked with both Cornell and KCMC students on a policy case study regarding the increasing prevalence of noncommunicable diseases in the Moshi area. The group project was as challenging as it was rewarding. It gave Brenna the opportunity to learn more about the health system in Tanzania through lengthy discussions with the medical students and interviewing some KCMC staff members. She was also able to find time to shadow one of the pediatricians at KCMC on the weekends, which gave her further insights on the struggles doctors in Tanzania face in treating their patients. During the second four weeks Brenna worked at a primary school. She was able to see a different part of the country by living in Machame, a much smaller town than the urban setting of Moshi. During her time at the school Brenna was able to bond with both teachers and students, teach math, science and technology classes, as well as assist teachers with bookkeeping. The entire trip was one grand learning experience that Brenna is grateful for.

**Maggie Holly**

Maggie is a Policy Analysis and Management major with a Global Health minor in the College of Human Ecology. During her eight-week stay in Moshi, Tanzania, Maggie grew as a person in countless ways. During the first four weeks of her stay, Maggie took a course at Kilimanjaro Christian Medical Centre. In this course, she wrote a case study with Cornell undergrads and Tanzanian medical students on the Psychosocial Effect of HIV/AIDS on Adolescents. During the second four weeks Maggie volunteered at an orphanage, Light In Africa. At the
orphanage, Maggie assisted in conducting medical outreaches in rural communities. Here, they supplied medical advice and medication for sick adults and children. She also assisted in food kitchens providing food for over 200 a day in rural villages. At the orphanage, Maggie assisted with literacy and typing lessons for the children. Her time at the orphanage was the most eye-opening experience of Maggie's life. Some lessons can't be learned in doors and experiencing the world first-hand invaluable.

Elsie Ikpot

Elsie is a senior majoring in Biology and Society with a double minor in Global Health and Nutrition and Health in the College of Arts and Sciences. She completed her eight week field experience through the Cornell Global Health Tanzania Summer Program in Moshi, Tanzania. For the first four weeks Elsie participated in a course taught at the Kilimanjaro Christian Medical College (KCMC). She collaborated with a cohort of Cornell and KCMC medical students to develop a twenty five page policy case study. Their policy case study analyzed the awareness of Non Communicable Diseases focusing on the rising prevalence and incidence of diabetes, cardiovascular diseases, cancer, and hypertension among workers in the Urban Moshi Community. They conducted stakeholder interviews of doctors, NGOs, and the District Medical Officer along with extensive literary research in order to formulate a feasible list of policy recommendations. During the second four weeks Elsie volunteered at Building a Caring Community, an organization dedicated to supplying services for disabled children and their families. She served as an assistant teacher and helped to facilitate academic and recreational activities for developmentally disabled children. Elsie has gained a host of analytical skills that have broadened her academic, intellectual, professional, and social horizons that can be applied to other countries and their contexts.

Gloria Kurere

Gloria spent last summer in Moshi, Kilimanjaro region, Tanzania with the Cornell Summer program. During the first four weeks she and a Cornell counterpart worked with three Tanzania fourth year medical students on a policy case study. They became interested in the regulation of herbal medication and finally chose to focus their case study on this topic. In the following four weeks, she volunteered at Women Education and Economic Center (WEECE), an NGO that works hand in
hand with Kilimanjaro women (and men) with the aim of improving gender equality by raising their social and economic status. At WEECE, she assisted in the training of women on running their village community banks (VICOBA), taught girls English, Math, and computer skills in vocation school, and helped runtwo tailoring shops that employed the school graduates.

Kimberly Senko

Kimberly had an amazing summer experience through the Tanzania Summer Program. She spent the first four weeks of the program working on a policy case study with both Cornell students and fourth-year medical students from Kilimanjaro Christian Medical College on the emergency and critical care system in Moshi, Tanzania. Kimberly got to explore and engage with the local community through conducting stakeholder interviews with local government officials and hospital administrators. During the second half of the program, Kimberly interned at Machame Lutheran Hospital in the rural village of Machame. She attended rounds, observed surgeries, and participated in outreach clinics. Her most memorable experience was having the opportunity to travel to a Maasai village and observe at a local health center.

Pragyashree Sharma

This summer, Prag spent 8 weeks in Moshi, Tanzania. She worked on a group policy case study analysis for first 4 weeks. She analyzed psychosocial effects of HIV/AIDS on adolescents in Moshi, Tanzania. She interviewed different stakeholders such as counselor, social worker, nurses, and doctors during the case study. On the second 4 weeks, she volunteered at a Building and Caring Community. This is a NGO dedicated to serve the physically and mentally disabled individual in Moshi, Tanzania. She assisted a teacher at the center, prepared study materials for the class during her volunteering period. During her stay in Moshi, she also volunteered in a village of Moshi with an organization Shine a Light, an organization of health professionals of Kilimanjaro Christian Medical Center/University College. This event was for the initial screening of children. She also had an opportunity to shadow a pediatrician in Kilimanjaro Christian Medical Center.
This past summer, Keisha completed her 8-week field experience for the Global Health minor in Tanzania. There, she spent the first month taking a course at the Kilimanjaro Christian Medical Center (KCMC), and the second month volunteering at an organization called United African Alliance Community Center (UAACC). At KCMC Keisha was paired up with fourth year medical students, and their group was tasked with pinpointing a health problem that Tanzania was facing and working towards developing policy recommendations to ameliorate the situation. The group spent the month collecting data, interviewing various stakeholders, and drafting recommendations, and the final product of those intensive four weeks was a 25-page case study. The second month Keisha volunteered at UAACC, an alternative school for students who are typically of age to attend high school but who are unable to do so due to financial hardships. At UAACC, Keisha was presented with the opportunity to teach two classes, Haitian Folklore dance and Elementary French. Keisha believes those 8 weeks to have been the best summer of her life, as she felt like she was making an impact on the kids, who were absolute pleasures to work with.