



U.S. Scholar Fulbright Program
GRANTEE REPORTS

Final Report

Grantee ID: 49413411 **Report/Status:** Final/Report Pending Acceptance
Name: Julia Royall **Academic Year:** 2007-08

Part I - Scholar Profile	
1. Grantee Information (Name and U.S. Home Address)	
Name	Julia Royall
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2. Grantee's U.S. institution	
Name of Institution	National Institutes of Health
Department	Office of Health Information Programs
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E-mail address	jroyall@nlm.nih.gov
3. Category of Grant	Lecturing/Research
4. Host Institution(s)	
1. Makerere University - Uganda	
5. Host Country (ies)	Uganda
6. Grant Dates	From: August 2007 To: June 2008

Part II - Grant Services and Experience
7. Please rate the following components of your Fulbright experience:

MANAGE REPORTS

CIES Comments

Narrative

Update Status

REPORTS

HELP

LOGOFF

a. CIES staff responsiveness to inquiries	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Very Good
b. Usefulness of CIES Web site	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Good
c. Timeliness of selection notification	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Fair
d. Washington orientation (if offered)	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Good
e. Usefulness of pre-departure information	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Good
f. Adequacy of financial benefits	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Poor
g. Support from Fulbright staff in country of grant	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Good
h. Housing abroad	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Good
i. Schooling for children	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Good

Please contact CIES at USfinalreport@cies.iie.org if you have any questions or problems regarding this form.

Part II - Grant Services and Experience (Continued)

8. What activities were you engaged in during your Fulbright experience? (check all that apply).

Activity Details - Please elaborate on each of the activities you check. Provide specific details where relevant; for example, include characteristics of students and classes such as level, class sizes, language capability, etc. Also note any significant factors that helped or hindered you in engaging in the activities needed to meet your grant objectives.

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Taught course(s)	<p>I taught seminars in searching NLM databases for medical students, graduate students and journalists in Kampala and Gulu. I collaborated with the Albert Cook Library at Makerere University Faculty of Medicine, Gulu Medical School, and the Ugandan Health Communication Alliance. Groups averaged 20 plus and were held in computer labs. All were taught in English - no problem.</p>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Developed and/or assessed academic curricula or educational materials	<p>I worked and continue to work with the Community based education and service program (COBES) at the Faculty of Medicine to develop new short courses which focus on searching medical databases (a serious gap at this point) and developing new approaches to communicating health information in a community setting.</p>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Advised students	<p>I was continually advising students, most specifically a small cadre who were the pioneers with NLM's MedlinePlus African tutorials. Also supported the students' regional (East Africa) efforts with Moi University in Kenya. I advised a student on presenting the tutorial project at 2</p>

	<p>conferences in Kampala and traveled with the group to Mifumi village in Eastern Uganda where we were collaborating with the Mifumi Health Center.</p>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Presented at a conference	<p>I presented at the Keystone Symposia's scientific meeting held in Kampala - Translating New Technologies to Improve Public Health in Africa - which I also encouraged students to apply for subsidy to attend. Also conducted workshops for a research seminar at Gulu Medical School and for the Ugandan Health Communication Alliance (print, radio, and television journalists.)</p>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Wrote for local publications	<p>I can't figure out where to put the following, so I will put it here: I organized a videoconference between the students in Kampala (attended by the Dean, Faculty of Medicine, and Director, COBES program) and experts from the National Institutes of Health in the US (National Library of Medicine and Fogarty International Center.) This videoconference received a major article in a daily newspaper New Vision.</p>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Conducted research	<p>I was able to follow my research interest - can an information technology make a difference in health - to the end user in Mifumi village. It was informed by the very real structures and strictures of local realities, transport, Internet access, electricity. One group of students carried out a baseline survey in Mifumi village, and another implemented an "information intervention" under my guidance. We will continue to follow the outcome of</p>

	this work longitudinally.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Spoke to local audiences (not including students)	I spoke to faculty and researchers at Gulu Medical School as well as journalists of Uganda Health Communication Alliance (in Kampala and Gulu.)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Collaborated with colleague(s) in host country	The opportunity to collaborate with colleagues in Uganda is a major reason why I applied for the Fulbright. Not only did I collaborate with colleagues I already knew in Kampala and Kabale, but met and worked with many new colleagues in these cities as well as Gulu, Tororo, and Mifumi. These partnerships will be ongoing. Another collaboration which I initiated and hope will bear fruit is with the New Vision newspaper. The project's objective is to address the mental health issues in the North as a result of 20 years of war through an interactive tutorial created by students and faculty at Gulu Medical School and the US National Library of Medicine. The New Vision will run a contest for children in the affected areas to submit illustrations for the tutorial's text.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Planned future collaboration between host institution and home institution	My work will continue in ongoing collaboration between the National Library of Medicine and Faculty of Medicine, Makerere University, as well as Kabale University, Gulu Medical School, Mifumi Health Center.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Participated in community-based cultural or social gatherings	I gave and went to a number of dinners in my home as well as that of Ugandan friends. I also attended a kwanjula - introduction ceremony - an opening for two young artists from the North, a "graduation" ceremony of students

	<p>participating in a leadership course, "Speech Day" at the school of a colleague's child, and a People with Disabilities Day in an Eastern district. I felt welcome to these Ugandan events. Even though I was often the sole muzungu (foreigner, usually white), I was not a "presenter" but an attendee along with everyone else. (Am not sure if this responds to what you are getting at here.)</p>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Interviewed by local media	I was interviewed by a reporter for the New Vision newspaper for a story.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (specify): Publicity for work of students	Two articles in national newspaper New Vision as well as in NIH (National Institute of Health) Record, NIH's MedlinePlus Magazine, and in a NIH-wide lecture I gave and in NIH podcast interview.

9. Reflect on the institution(s) where you were engaged in teaching and/or conducting research while on your grant and rate the following components:

a. Availability of texts and reference works for teaching	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Not Applicable
b. Availability of other educational materials, computers, audiovisual aids, and laboratory equipment	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Fair
c. The host institution's facilities in general	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Fair
d. Overall relations with colleagues	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Very Good
e. Other (specify):	
Comments	

Please provide specific details about the institution(s) that would be relevant for future scholars, including the organization of the department with which you were affiliated and any comments related to the ratings above. If possible, identify key people and their contact information who facilitated your assignment or who are interested in working with American scholars.

Note: Text boxes have space limits. If you have more to say about an issue, please feel free to send an email attachment (PDF or Word format) to your CIES program officer.

Summary -

- * Working with the Community Based Education and Service (COBES) Program at the Makerere University Faculty of Medicine to create interactive and interdisciplinary MedlinePlus African tutorials for use in 40 districts and drafting outlines for three courses to be developed for COBES as part of a medical informatics curriculum.
- * Working with the Albert Cook Medical Library at Makerere University to facilitate training of students, faculty, and researchers in the use of NLM databases.
- * Conducting similar NLM database training for faculty and researchers at Gulu Medical School in Northern Uganda.
- * Working with Gulu Medical School students and faculty to develop an interactive tutorial on mental health to be illustrated by children.
- * Working with Mifumi village in Eastern Uganda to bring them into the COBES Program.
- * Working with Mifumi village Health Center to determine whether or not an ICT intervention can make a difference in morbidity and mortality of malaria.
- * Working with Tororo Hospital in developing an eHMIS (electronic health management and information system), the first such electronic system to be adopted by a Ugandan hospital.
- * Consulting with Kabale University in Western Uganda on its IT system and its interest in counseling and addiction, as well as exploring opportunities for local partnerships.
- * Working with Ugandan Health Communication Alliance (journalists) in the use of NLM databases for their coverage of health issues.
- * Partnering with Faculty of Medicine at Makerere University in developing an E-pathology project for remote diagnosis of medical conditions, including a digital archive of specimens.
- * Training journalists who write about health from Uganda's national and regional newspapers and radio and television stations in searching NLM's databases (in Kampala and Gulu).

I was especially pleased when my work brought together the academic and community constituencies with district health officers and Ministry/Minister of Health.

Should also note that I and another Fulbright scholar were pleased to collaborate with

te US Embassy and present two programs for students at the University on educational opportunities in the US.

Please contact CIES at USfinalreport@cies.iie.org if you have any questions or problems regarding this form.

Part III. Advice for Future Grantees

10. Provide any information that could help future Fulbright grantees who will work in your host institution(s) or country. Address the following topics when relevant:

- Aspects of local culture
- Specific recommendations related to logistics (e.g., travel, visa, baggage, money, housing, etc.)
- Tips on family arrangements, including specific information on school(s) child(ren) attended with address(es), telephone number(s), and fax number(s)
- Useful Web sites or printed information

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The environment is very challenging and keeps the adrenaline going.

I have already mentioned the corruption on all levels. I also wrote at length about logistics in my interim report.

I would like to recommend my housekeeper, Christine Nambi (256 - (0)782038937) who has helped a number of Fulbrights before me and was able to assist me with many things, large and small. She will shop for you and cook, clean, wash and iron, housesit if you're out of town, and is generally helpful.

I also invested in a car and driver. My work did not involve going to a classroom on campus every day to teach but comprised an irregular schedule with meetings all over town and even a few by car out of town. The cost of car (purchase, fuel, maintenance, insurance, replacement of stolen parts) and driver took a big chunk out of my operating money but I believe was worth it for convenience, making the most of my precious time on the ground, and safety (traffic accidents are ubiquitous!)

I also invested in decent (in this context) Internet access with UTL (supported Skype,

so cost of voice communication was very, very low.) At the time, after investigating all companies and experimenting with MTN's offering, UTL had the best access, given the location (line of sight interference from trees on campus prevented me from installing MTN's connection.)

School: www.isu.ac.ug ISU is the only school in Kampala on the American system - also has the IB program.

Money: Uganda's is a cash economy, so one is always carrying around money. Credit cards are useless (even for many safaris) except at the most expensive hotels. Securing cash is a constant challenge. I used ATMs which are nearby on campus. The problem with using credit cards is that they exact extortionate charges. Instead use your local bank's debit card - if they are associated with Visa, this should work, and the charge is \$2 a transaction. I also opened an account at Barclay's - a hassle, but I wanted to have access to cash at a local level if needed.

Travel: Strongly recommend KLM's flight with only one stop in Amsterdam.

Luggage limitations: My US institution was willing to ship over my computer, printer, books. What a wonderful support!

Exercise: I wasn't aware of a small gym right below the flats on the campus until I was leaving. Up until then, I was using gyms off campus and running on campus.

I found it useful to keep a web journal. It provided a way to chronicle what I was doing for myself and for others.

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Part IV. Outcomes

11. To what extent do you expect to do the following as a result of your Fulbright experience?

a. Publish your research findings	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Probably will
b. Seek another award or fellowship	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Probably will
c. Return to host country for professional	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Certainly will

activities	
d. Host a colleague from the region you visited	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Certainly will
e. Continue research collaboration with individual(s) in your host country(ies)	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Certainly will
f. Establish collaboration between your host institution and home institution	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Certainly will
g. Develop new courses / curriculum	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Probably will
h. Encourage a student or faculty exchange program	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Uncertain
i. Share knowledge related to host country with colleagues	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Certainly will
j. Other tangible results (specify):	

12. To what extent do you think your experience helped to:

a. Promote international cooperation for educational and cultural advancement	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Greatly
b. Strengthen ties between people of the United States and people of other countries	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Greatly

13. Overall, how would you rate your experience as a Fulbright Scholar?

Very Good

14. Reflect on your Fulbright experience and whether you feel it has played or will play a transformative role in your life, either professionally or personally. Describe a specific event during your grant period that illustrates the grant's impact.

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I have worked in Uganda since the early 90s and was part of the team that set up the first Internet connection which enabled physicians, librarians, and students to have access to

current medical literature. I have made a number of Ugandan colleagues over the years and have fallen in love with the spirit and the green of this country.

HOWEVER, the Fulbright experience gave me something new - a real plunge into the daily experience of my Ugandan colleagues. It was not easy, but I would not want to have lived life without having lived and worked fulltime in Uganda. The highs and lows were as extreme as the exquisite beauty of the late afternoon sunlight and the feeling of betrayal when an employee steals money. I don't believe these are things one can know without experience.

During my last trip to Mifumi village, outside of Tororo in Eastern Uganda, I found myself at the Health Center, sitting on a banana leaf mat that had just been woven, watching as patients, mostly women with babies, interacted with our electronic tutorial on malaria, cautiously but then with confidence, advancing the frames by clicking the down arrow on my battery-powered laptop. At that moment, I found myself smiling with joy, knowing that I was exactly where I wanted to be - watching from this mat in the health center - completely in touch with my work from the end user's perspective. And more, I was so privileged to be here. The creation of the tutorial in collaboration with the medical faculty and students and artists had been satisfying from many perspectives, but the interaction with the end users in this small village in a highly malarious country was remarkable, so simple and practical, yet precious beyond belief.