Reporting on HIV/AIDS in Africa

A travel course to Uganda

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October 24, 2017
“Journalism is what maintains democracy. It's the force for progressive social change.”

Andrew Vachss
“No war on the face of the Earth is more destructive than the AIDS pandemic.”

Colin Powell
“In my view, the humanity of our world can be measured against the fate of Africa.”

Horst Koehler
Reporting on HIV/AIDS in Africa
Course Description • weeks 1-2

• Introduction to the basic pathology of HIV
• History of AIDS in sub-Saharan Africa
• Current efforts aimed at addressing the worldwide epidemic
• Guest speakers
Study at an African school • weeks 3-6

- IU students will take two days worth of special classes at ACME with IU alumnus Dr. Peter Mwesige.
Visit and African university • weeks 3-6

• We will visit with journalism students at Makerere University.

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Intern at an African newspaper • weeks 3-6

• Students will then become interns at the Daily Monitor newspaper.
Work for an African editor • weeks 3-6

• You will work for Carol Beyanga and Tabu Butagiri, managing editors.
Partner with an African reporter • weeks 3-6

• You will work with a Daily Monitor reporter who covers HIV and healthcare.
Reporting team transcribing notes
Equipment for your use

• You’ll use School cameras and audio recorders and will be supplied a local mobile phone.
Reports for the African audience

• You’ll share bylines with stories you file while in country.
Reports for the American audience

• You’ll produce 3 multimedia stories for the School’s website.
Young woman conceals her status to avoid stigma of HIV

By Alex Weiss Hills • November 22, 2016

AVERT advocates for policies that protect children from discrimination or bullying at school and guarantee that their status is kept confidential.
Course Description

• In-depth feature stories will be offered to local, regional, and national publications.
Jim Kelly

- Professor since 1990; at IU since 2007
- Teaches photojournalism and design
- Has been training journalists in east Africa since 2002 under US Dept. of State programs
Jim Kelly

Reporting on HIV/AIDS in Africa
Course Credit

• The course is open to all Media School students, but...
• It’s a reporting course. Describe your coursework and your reporting experience.
• The course yields four credit hours.
• Students must register for summer school and pay associated costs.
Course Costs

- Program Costs are $5,000.
- The Media School provides each student with a scholarship of $1,500.
- The resulting course fee of $3,500 is in addition to tuition costs.
Course Costs

- The course fee pays:
  - Transportation to and from Bloomington/Indianapolis
  - Room and board while in Uganda (except for weekend meals and incidentals).
  - Taxis for reporting
Course Costs

- The course fee pays for four cultural excursions
Scholarship available

- The Edward L. Hutton International Experiences Program (HIEP) awards scholarships from $500 to $2500, but the award for this course is usually $1,250.  
  http://www.indiana.edu/~iubhonor/hds/overseas.php
Equipment

• Each student will be issued a digital camera that shoots stills and video
• Each student will also have a digital audio recorder
• Personal cameras and binoculars for safari are welcome
Cultural Experiences

• Day trip to the source of the Nile river
• Day trip to a rain forest
• Overnight trip to islands in Lake Victoria
• Two nights at a game park
Safety

- IU has sent 500+ students to East Africa since 1989 with only one serious accident.
- Students will stay in a private guest house secured by a perimeter wall and a full-time security guard.
- All meals will be taken at the guest house use or a nearby restaurant as a group.
‘I’m HIV positive but have negative daughters’

Years ago, when a woman had HIV and discovered she was pregnant, it was almost definite the child would contract the virus. Now, however, as long as she receives treatment, the baby will be negative. One woman tells her story.

BY DONNIE WIGG

Fen year old Dolly the mother of seven children, born and raised in Africa, was diagnosed with HIV at the age of 18. Her father, a traditional healer, believed that HIV was caused by witchcraft and therefore refused to take any medication. As a result, Dolly’s health began to decline, and she was eventually admitted to a hospital with symptoms of AIDS.

The hospital staff recommended that Dolly undergo antiretroviral therapy (ART), which is a combination of drugs that can help control the virus and improve the patient’s quality of life. However, Dolly was hesitant to start treatment because she was concerned about the side effects and the cost of the medication.

Her family and friends also discouraged her from starting treatment, citing the stigma associated with HIV. Dolly felt lonely and isolated, and she began to wonder if she would ever be able to have a healthy baby.

But Dolly was determined to fight for her health and her future. She started researching information about HIV and ART, and she found support groups where she could connect with other people living with HIV.

Dolly eventually decided to start ART and began receiving treatment. She was also able to connect with a counselor who helped her to navigate the emotional and social challenges of living with HIV.

As Dolly began to feel better, she decided to try to have a child. She used ART to prevent the transmission of HIV to her child and was happy to learn that her two oldest daughters were negative.

Dolly’s story is a testament to the power of hope and perseverance. It shows that with the right support and resources, people living with HIV can lead healthy and fulfilling lives.

BY DONNIE WIGG
Safety

- Students will register with the U.S. Embassy in Kampala before departure.
- Students will be issued a cell phone that works in Africa and will be required to carry it when outside the residence.
- All travel will be by licensed taxi.
Safety

- Travel insurance, including airlift to the U.S., will be provided by the School.
- A hospital is within three miles of the guest house.
Vaccinations

- A malaria prophylaxis is required prior to, during and after time in Africa.
- We require you to have had a tetanus booster within 5 years.

- Suggested
  - Yellow Fever
  - Meningitis
  - Hepatitis A
  - Typhoid Fever
  - Polio
Communication

• English is the official language of Uganda.
• The guest house has wireless Internet suitable for Skype videoconferencing, e-mail and chat.
• You may purchase data for your smartphone if desired.
Important Dates

• Jan. 10   Applications due at 5:00 p.m.
• Jan. 24   Selected students will be notified
• April 2   Mandatory orientation session
• April 15  Proof of immunization
• May 9    Course begins
• May 19–June 18  Kampala
• July 1   Course ends
Reporting HIV/AIDS in Africa

Tell the stories of people in east Africa who are working to eradicate HIV/AIDS, a devastating disease that affects the entire world, but originated in Africa. Reporting HIV/AIDS in Africa is a four-credit course during first eight-week summer session that provides an immersive lesson on health reporting. The class includes a four-week trip to Uganda during May and June, where students intern at the Daily Monitor, the country’s largest privately-owned newspaper.

Taught by associate professor Jim Kelly, the course requires students to complete five blog posts. Please check back weekly for updates.
Photojournalist Abubaker Lubowa and me outside the Daily Monitor offices
Thank you

• While I answer your questions, I thought I’d share some photos I took while in Uganda last time. I hope you like them.