

# PIAF FELLOWS' FLYER

News and views for and by current Princeton in Africa Fellows.

August 2007



## FELLOWS DEPARTING FOR AFRICA



**Top row, left to right:** Florence Cheung '07, *Africare, Angola*; Jessie Cronan '07, *Rift Valley Children's Village, Tanzania*; Michael Broache '06; *IRC, Tanzania*

**Bottom row:** David Cape '07, *BMS-Baylor, Lesotho*; Lindsey Stephens '07 *BMS-Harvard, Botswana*; Adam Herling '07, *One Acre Fund, Kenya*; Sandra Hart '06, *UN WFP, Mauritania*; Shelly Slemp '07, *TCRS, Tanzania*; Sabina Sequiera '07, *Mutola Foundation, Mozambique*



## FELLOWS CONCLUDING FELLOWSHIPS

Welcome Back! Please let us know where you're headed next... and how we can keep in touch! Email [piafasst@princeton.edu](mailto:piafasst@princeton.edu)

**Syon Bhanot**  
*IRC, Kenya*  
**Devan Darby**  
*BMS-Harvard, Botswana*  
**Molly Fay\***  
*Mpala, Kenya*

**Cherice Landers**  
*Africare, Tanzania*  
**Bev Lien**  
*ALA, South Africa*

**Amaka Megwalu**  
*IRC, DRC*  
**Arthur Plews**  
*UNFPA, Senegal*

\* Read more about Molly and her climb of Mt. Kili on page 3!

REMINDER TO ALL  
2006-2007 FELLOWS

Final Report Forms are due now! Please send them in to [piafasst@princeton.edu](mailto:piafasst@princeton.edu)

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

August 19  
Arthur Plews

August 25  
Marilyn Waite

August 30  
David Bartels

# NOTES FROM THE FIELD *By Joe Falit, 2007-2008 Fellow at Jacana in Mozambique*

I have now been in Maputo for two weeks. I work for a small NGO by the name of Jacana, an organization whose primary responsibility entails helping other NGOs to operate more efficiently. Part of Jacana's activities include the administration of certain "empowerment" programs, such as Build a Better Bicycle (BABB), an endeavor that provides rural women in Mozambique bicycles through interest-free micro-credit loans. The larger part of Jacana's operations, however, revolve around carrying out full procurement, importation, and fleet (vehicle) management services for local NGOs.

At Jacana, I guess you could say I perform the role of a development consultant and emergency preparedness coordinator. Or in other words, my tasks at work vary widely from day to day, and I don't exactly have a job description that is set in stone. Projects and procurements must be accomplished and I'm here to help, whether that entails researching donor compliance regulations, investigating the site of a natural disaster, or fulfilling some unforeseen role. Although it's hard to call any day "typical" in the world of international development, the following represents what might be considered a "typical day."



**7:00 AM.** I wake up and get ready for work. Being that the sun rises around 5:30 AM, I would be considered a late sleeper according to "Mozambican time." It seems that Maputo is bustling every morning by the time the sun begins to rise.

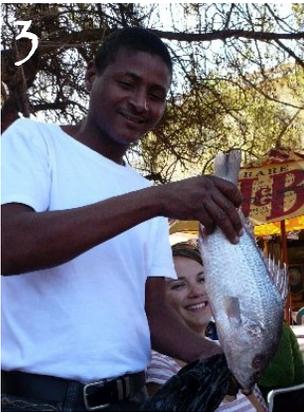
**7:40 AM.** I walk to work, passing the same street vendors I see every day. "No," I don't want an African mask for an "especial price" and "No," I still don't need sunglasses or a new belt.

**8:00 AM.** I arrive at work. After getting my morning cup of coffee, I find out that one of our vendors still has yet to pay us for the work we did back in March, and a potential corporate funder isn't yet convinced that BABB fits into their goals for social responsibility. It's time for me to prove that mining and bicycle provision ought to be cozy bedfellows.



**12:00 PM.** Lunch time! I've never had better bread than the Portuguese rolls I eat each day in Mozambique. But while my loaf of bread costs fifty cents, my cheese costs six times as much.

**4:45 PM.** The workday winds to a close. Time for me to head off to "Sammy's Gym" for a quick lift and then out for dinner and drinks with a group of friends who hail from several different countries. I'll sleep well tonight!



*From top:* **1.** My room. This photo was taken on my first day in the apartment, right after I started unpacking. **2.** I work at the end of this street. As you can see, this road (similar to many side-roads in Mozambique) is rather bumpy. **3.** My waiter at the fish market. The fish he was holding was still alive; he was showing it to us so that we could approve it for cooking. **4.** The craft market. **5.** My friends and co-workers from Jacana. This photo was taken at our secretary, Nelly's, wedding. I'm on the right in the blue shirt. **6.** A lavish hotel that is right on a river that empties into the ocean. Right behind the hotel is a park where I and a bunch of other NGO workers play Ultimate Frisbee on Sundays.

# CLIMB-A-THON FOR CLINICS

Molly Fay, 2006-2007 Fellow at Mpala Wildlife Foundation in Laikipia, Kenya, climbed Mount Kilimanjaro in June. She and two friends made the ascent to raise money for two mobile health clinics that Molly worked with. (The clinics provide healthcare, immunizations, HIV/AIDS counseling and testing, and health education to rural, nomadic communities in northern Kenya.) Here are some of Molly's words and pictures from the climb.

"How was it?!" "Freezing!"

That's my immediate reaction when people ask about my climb up Mt. Kilimanjaro. While it seems such an obvious response, I don't know what to mention first...

Beautiful? Amazing? Unbelievable? — All too vague...

Perhaps the numbers? 3 friends, 9 porters, 6 days, \$2,500+ raised for the clinics, 5,895 meters (19,340 feet)? — Still missing something....

Or perhaps the images: Batteries frozen at the peak, midnight summit by starlight, parade of headlamps in the dark, sunrise on the glacier, endless games of cards, 10-hour bus ride, Luna bars, and faaaar too much morning porridge.

No, these don't really describe the trip either; hence, my response of "freezing." It's concise and truthful, if not comprehensive.

So I'll leave it at this... living within driving distance of the highest peak in Africa for the past year, there is no way I was not going to climb Mt. Kilimanjaro. However, I also knew I wanted to do it with friends, so I convinced two friends, Anne-Lise Maag '06 and Nicki Brown '06, to join me in Kenya. Having told them about the mobile health clinics I've been working for, they were more than eager to come.

Nicki thought of the "climb-a-thon." When someone asked her for money for a breast cancer walk-a-thon, Nicki realized that climbing Mt. Kilimanjaro was much tougher than walking and the cause (providing health care to extremely remote, nomadic communities) was equally worthy. So, within two days, we put together a website ([climbingforclinics.com](http://climbingforclinics.com)), set up a PayPal account (thanks to Anne-Lise) and began sending out emails requesting support. Within a month, we had raised over \$2,500 for the clinics— not an insignificant amount given that it almost covers 5 months worth of medical supplies.

So is "freezing" the best description? Far from it. In truth, I can't imagine having done this trip without two great friends by my side. When it's 5:00 AM and you are only a few hundred meters from the top with a ringing headache and legs of lead, the "reward" of making it to the peak doesn't seem so great. However, when you know that two of your closest friends have flown across the globe to do this with you and that by making it to the top, the money raised will give a child her vaccinations and a young man malaria treatment, you somehow push through the pain. Will I ever climb Mt. Kili again? Probably not... but I will always remember the feeling of pride when we pulled out our Princeton 2006 banner on the peak of the world's tallest free-standing mountain. Even if my face was too frozen to smile, I smile now just recalling that moment.



Hey, returning and other recently returned Fellows: We want to feature your words and photos here, too! Email [piafasst@princeton.edu](mailto:piafasst@princeton.edu)