



# CareerStreet

A Publication of the Career Development Center Macalester College

Vol. II - Issue 11 - April 25, 2005

**"The people who get on in this world are the people who get up and look for the circumstances they want, and, if they can't find them, make them."**

**- George Bernard Shaw**

## Did You Miss An Issue?

[See Previous Newsletters](#)



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## Upcoming CDC Events

### SENIORS... CAP AND GOWN PICK-UP



**Wed., May 11**  
9am - 4pm  
Career Development Center  
Kagin Commons, 1st Floor



## Hot Jobs

**Find details on these opportunities on our web site under [Grand Avenues](#).**

### Summer Intern Chicago Community Ventures

**Chicago, IL  
Summer Position (\$5,000-summer)  
Deadline: 5/30/05**  
Chicago Community Ventures, a not-for-profit business development organization, provides financing and consulting primarily to small businesses in low and moderate income (LMI) communities, including Empowerment Zones, Enterprise Communities and



## Counselor's Corner

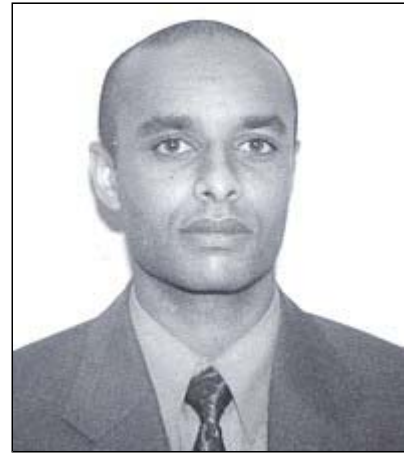
### WHAT ABOUT A PART-TIME VOLUNTEER POSITION THIS SUMMER?

**by John Mountain  
Assistant Director,  
Employer Relationships, CDC**

At first take, this may seem like a crazy idea. Thoughts of "I need to make some money" or "I don't have the time" may pop into your head immediately. While these are valid concerns, a part-time internship might offer the flexibility to not impact your time or monetary concerns too significantly. Actually, from a skill building experience, you may get more out of your 5-10/ hour a week volunteer position, than your "real" summer job. Organizations don't care how many hours you put in, they care about the experiences you gained, the skills you developed, the problems you had to solve. Here are some of the key benefits of finding a volunteer position.

Gain experience in your areas of interest- Even though you are only working as little as a few hours a week, you are getting exposed to a work environment that will help determine if you want to pursue it in the future. Even if your core position doesn't allow you to do all the things you want, see if they have the flexibility to let you get involved in other projects that might be more related. Remember, your main focus needs to be the area that you were

## Macalester at Work by Anna Klappe, '05 CDC Student Staff



### Tonderai Chikuhwa '96

Tonderai Chikuhwa '96, is the Special Assistant to the United Nations Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict, and works at the United Nations building in New York City. At Macalester, Tonderai majored in Political Science and International Studies, and was involved with Afrika!, Debate Club, International Student Organization, soccer and tennis. Tonderai also holds a Masters degree in Political Studies from the University of Cape Town in South Africa, where he later taught Political Science prior to working for the UN. The CDC spoke with Tonderai about the pressures of graduating, getting a foot in the door at the United Nations, literature, and of course, Kofi.

### CDC: What did you want to be when you were little?

**Tonderai:** Well, I am not sure you would want to publish that. When I

other government-designated areas for reinvestment. The Summer Intern will assist the Director of Economic Development Initiatives, who manages the Small Business Development Initiative (SBDI), and the SBDI Project Coordinator with implementing SBDI. The Summer Intern will have frequent client exposure.

**Horticulture Intern: Park Gardens or Team Leader St. Paul Parks and Recreation St. Paul, MN Summer Position Deadline: 5/4/05 or until filled**

St. Paul Parks and Recreation offers recreation opportunities the public wants and preserves the physical and natural resources of the parks and recreation system. In a team context, assist Park Gardener in the preparation and maintenance of traditional gardens and native plantings throughout the city. Learn and implement skills for creating and maintaining a vibrant and beautiful urban environment. Work with Community Garden groups on special projects, lead diverse group of seasonal employees, build stock through cuttings, plant division and maintenance of park nursery.

**Development Associate Resource Center of the Americas Full Time Position Deadline: ASAP (start date, mid-May)**

The Resource Center of the Americas informs, educates and organizes to promote human rights, democratic participation, economic justice and cross-cultural understanding in the context of globalization in the Americas. The Development Associate assists the director of Development in implementing a comprehensive fundraising

hired for, but many times organizations have some flexibility on actual projects. Another possible outcome is that you find that this particular field is not the right fit for you, which might bring more clarity to possible future positions.

Makes you a more attractive candidate for future full-time positions- Having a related organization name or title on your resume is going to make you a much more attractive candidate to organizations in the future. It also shows great initiative on your part that you sought out an additional opportunity to build your skills. Many times organizations will have a searchable resume database and will be looking for particular organizations, job titles, or software skills. This volunteer position might be just the thing to differentiate your resume compared to all of the others.

Develops your network – Remember, no matter where you are working there are important connections that you want to build for both personal and professional reasons. This is not to say that the relationships you build always have an underlying motive to benefit you in your future career, but recognize that the people you work with have a wealth of skills that can be very helpful. Try to ask questions of co-workers to get an idea of their backgrounds, how did they start working in this industry, are there associations that would be helpful for you to join, are there other people that would be helpful for you to meet? You still have a job to do, but most people will be very accommodating when you ask for a few minutes of their time.

A volunteer position has the potential to be much more valuable in the long run than an unrelated summer job that pays the bills. Clearly, you need to make enough to survive, but if you can swing adding a volunteer position that really interests you, it can be a great strategy. The CDC can work with you to determine what might be some potential options no

was little, I was actually very fascinated with the men who picked up garbage. I thought the garbage truck, with all its machinery and blinking buttons, was amazing. At daycare, when all the children were asked what they wanted to do when they grew up, I proudly declared that I wanted to be a garbage man. My daycare teachers actually called up my parents, and my parents told me I should probably think of something else to say. Other than that, I have no vivid memories of wanting to be something in particular. I always enjoyed soccer and tennis. I still play tennis as often as I am able - - it really was one of my highlights at Macalester. For me, the extra-curricular activities at Mac were as important as the academic.

**CDC: What do you mean by that?**

**Tonderai:** Well, an undergraduate education is so much more than just the syllabi. The details of coursework do not stay with you forever, but the experiences in between classes often do. When I remember Macalester, I remember the friendships I had, the plays I saw, and the art class I took over J-Term. Also, sports were a big part of my experience at Macalester. It gave me focus and a structure, and made me more organized. And, sports served as a real release from stress.

**CDC: What was your very first job?**

**Tonderai:** My first job was as a tennis teacher in Zimbabwe. Also, I stayed on campus during every summer while I was at Macalester, working for Campus Programs and teaching tennis to inner-city kids from Saint Paul through the Saint Paul Urban Tennis Program. It is a wonderful program. The coordinator was a 78-year old African American man who was the picture of health. I would love to be

program, with specific emphasis on individual gifts and membership development. The position requires a minimum of two years fundraising experience.

**Analyst Support Associate  
John S. Herold, Inc.  
Norwalk, CT  
Full Time Position  
Deadline: 5/1/05**

Global energy research firm offers entry-level positions that provide comprehensive exposure to all aspects of researching and analyzing company valuation, strategy and performance. Associates support senior analysts in such areas as data entry, report preparation and production and information gathering.



### On-Campus Recruiting

To access a list of the most current on-campus employer presentations, information tables, resume deadlines and interview dates go to:

<http://www.macalester.edu/cdc/recruitcurrent.pdf>

### Web Watch



#### TOP 500 ENTRY LEVEL EMPLOYERS

Check out the CollegeGrad.com Top 500 Entry Level Employers information, which has just been revised and updated at their web site:

matter what your field of interest. Stop in during drop in hours M-F 2-4 PM or call x6384 to schedule an appointment.

### The Bookshelf



**"201 Best Questions to Ask on Your Interview" - Author John Kador, McGraw-Hill, New York, NY, 2002.**

To really shine in your job interview and get that dream job, the questions you ask must be at least as memorable as the answers you give. Today it's the questions you ask that set you apart from the dozens - even hundreds - of qualified candidates competing for your job. Make your questions demonstrate that you are a world-class candidate who will add a significant value to the job from Day One. **201 Best Questions to Ask on Your Interview** arms you with the questions and techniques you need to nail this most crucial part of the interview process.

Packed with 201 proven questions, including examples of some of the smartest and worst interview questions from hundreds of recruiters, job coaches, hiring managers, and *Fortune* 500 human resource professionals, this hands-on guide gives you the edge you need.

*(This book can be found in the Kagin Resource Center, Job Interviewing Section.)*

### Senior S.L.A.M.

#### INSURANCE 101 FOR THE NEW GRADUATES : What You Really Need to Know and Probably Don't

Graduation is just around the corner for millions of college students, and for many, that means it's time to leave the carefree college life and get ready

playing tennis like that at age 80.

#### CDC: Who is your favorite tennis player?

**Tonderai:** Well, I play tennis competitively but I tend not to watch much tennis on television. I have a lot of admiration for the Williams sisters. Their story of success is inspirational. It is a very long and unlikely road from the courts of Compton, California, to the courts of Wimbledon. Life is so much about symbolism, and for African American women to break into a country club sport and dominate it is very powerful. Much like the symbolism of Condi Rice – a young African American woman, who grew up at the height of the civil rights movement in the South, is now America's chief diplomat. It is really an amazing and inspirational story.

#### CDC: You worked as a Residential Assistant while at Macalester. Did you learn any valuable lessons from that job?

**Tonderai:** My RA experience was valuable because it allowed me to establish relationships with people outside my immediate circle of friends. It was actually a girl in my hall who inspired me to take a Fine Arts class over J-Term, something I would never have thought of otherwise. It was an unexpected experience, but very fun and memorable. Also, having a nice big room was a big motivator. I was actually an RA for two years, in Dayton and Kirk.

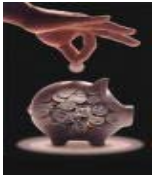
#### CDC: How did you spend the first year out of college?

**Tonderai:** I spent a year and a half in Washington D.C. as a research fellow with the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. I worked on their Migration Policy Program.

#### CDC: Many international

<http://www.collegegrad.com/topemployers>

This list represents more than 130,000 entry level college grad jobs from employers throughout the U.S. It's a great way for new grads to see who is hiring and getting help in making direct contact, as well as any student looking for employment after the school year.



### Beyond the Piggy Bank

The Career Development Center and Financial Aid Office have teamed up to provide you with information on managing your personal finances. We hope you find the information useful. This newsletter's topic is:

["Dealing with Debt"](#)

### Grad School Notes

#### CONSIDERING LAW SCHOOL?

Consistently regarded as one of the top 20 law schools in the United States, the University of Minnesota Law School has earned a national reputation for accomplishments that are uniquely related to its history, its location, and its people. As in its first century, 1888-1988, the Law School continues to sharpen the minds and challenge the intellects of some of the best law students in the country, preparing them to apply their talents and intellectual strengths to the public and private good. This ethic of service is tied closely to the Upper Midwestern origins of the school. The history

to enter the real world. But are you prepared for what will happen once the cap and gown come off? College might have taught you about pulling all-nighters and planning road trips, but has it helped you figure out how to pay off your college loans or find the right insurance? Here are some tips to help you make the transition from college student to working professional.

- Check with your family's health insurance provider to see if you are still covered on that policy. As a recent college graduate, you may not be eligible for coverage as a dependent. It might be time to shop for your own policy; you want to be covered in an emergency.

- Moving into a new apartment? Consider renter's insurance to protect your new diploma and other valuables you worked so hard for. It's relatively cheap protection, even if you don't have a lot of stuff.

- Landed your first real job? Know the right questions to ask about a company's health insurance plan. No matter how reputable the company, there may be a significant waiting period until you are eligible for coverage.

- Moving back home or to a new city? It's a good time to re-evaluate your auto insurance policies. A new location can affect your auto insurance costs.

- When looking for insurance, comparison shop for the best deal. Prices for similar coverage can vary widely from company to company.

(Source: Inseeb.com - <http://www.insweb.com/learningcenter/articles/general-graduation.htm>)

### Junior Jumpstart

#### LIFE SKILLS - A CHECKLIST

There are many skills that you have built while you have been at

### students at Macalester stay in the United States long after they graduate, whereas you got a Masters degree from the University of Cape Town in South Africa. Why did you make the choice to go to South Africa rather than to stay in the United States?

**Tonderai:** During my senior year at Macalester, I applied for six PhD Programs in the United States, but when I began to receive acceptance letters and scholarships, there was no joy, no excitement. So I realized that I needed to think about this some more, and when I did I found that I really needed to go back to Africa, to study and live at home. As an international student, it is really a leap of faith to leave the United States since there are no guarantees that you can come back to work here again. In the end, I just threw caution (and perhaps sense) to the wind, and followed my heart.

### CDC: Were there any people or events that influenced your decision?

**Tonderai:** Actually, there was one individual who influenced my decision, namely the scholar Mahmood Mamdani, whose work I read in Professor Samatar's class -- a book called "Citizen and Subject." Mamdani was the Director of the Center for African Studies at the University of Cape Town at the time, and I was interested in working with him. As circumstances would have it, I was only able to work with him for a year because he left Cape Town to become the Director of the Institute of African Studies at Columbia University in New York. I remember being a bit upset, but decided to remain at UCT to complete my degree even though I had lost my principal thesis adviser. All in all I would say that, academically, the University of Cape Town wasn't as rigorous as Macalester, but as a 'socio-academic' experience my time in

of public and private cooperation that undergirds the region's progressive community life has attracted to the Law School individuals with the talent and motivation to improve society.

For more information go to:  
<http://www.law.umn.edu/>

## What is the CDC?

The [Career Development Center](#) is here to assist students in planning, articulating and applying their educational experience to meet their future goals. The office is located on the first floor in Kagin Commons, and offers [individual counseling sessions](#) with a career counselor, an extensive [career resource library](#), [job/internship listings](#) and opportunities from around the globe. The CDC resource library features: Information about Fellowships, [Internships](#) and [Job Postings](#); information on Companies and [Government Opportunities](#); pamphlets and materials on [resume](#) and [cover letter](#) writing; books on etiquette, [interviewing](#), [grad school](#) and the [job search process](#); and an extensive [alumni directory](#), sorted by career.

**Hours: 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.  
 Monday through Friday  
 (Daily Drop-ins: 2-4 p.m.)**

**Macalester College  
 Career Development Center  
 Kagin Commons  
 1600 Grand Avenue  
 Saint Paul, MN 55105  
 (651) 696-6384  
 Fax: 651-696-6131  
 E-mail: [cdc@macalester.edu](mailto:cdc@macalester.edu)  
[www.macalester.edu/cdc](http://www.macalester.edu/cdc)**

Macalester, but there are many more that you will have to develop after graduation next year. To see how ready you are for the real world, here's a little check on your life skills. This assessment should help you determine the areas that you still need to develop before next May. A few areas will require you to think and do some research on your own.

### CAREER

- I want to get a job to begin my career next year. Yes/No
- If yes, I have a plan for how to obtain a job for next year.
- I am undecided about my career plans, but I am exploring my options.
- I have a resume I'm satisfied with.
- I can select a wardrobe appropriate to my industry.

### EDUCATION

- I want to further my education in the future. Yes/No
- If yes, I know how to pursue that education.
- I have a plan to finance my future education.

### PERSONAL CARE

- I know how to find and what to look for in an apartment.
- I know the rights and responsibilities of tenants.
- I know how to cook more than pre-packaged foods.
- I know how to select a new doctor and a health care plan.
- I understand what kinds of insurance I'll need and how to select it.
- I know how to balance work, family, and personal care to maintain good physical and mental health.

### FINANCIAL

- I know how to create a realistic budget.
- I know how to manage my credit card and/or student loan debt.
- I know how to begin financial planning for my future (401k, etc.).

### RELATIONSHIPS

- I have thought about how to redefine my relationships with my

South Africa in 1998 and 1999 was extremely rich and an irreplaceable experience. It was a period of euphoria, dramatic changes, the second general election, etc. It was an amazing and quite formative experience.

### **CDC: Could you please tell us a little bit about your current job and what it entails?**

**Tonderai:** I joined the United Nations in 1999/2000, after I spent a year teaching Political Science at the University of Cape Town. My official title is Special Assistant to the United Nations Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict. The office itself is new, and was created as a response to a 1996 report on children and conflict that was initiated by Graca Machel, Nelson Mandela's wife and former First-Lady of Mozambique. The findings of the report were so disturbing that the United Nations General Assembly created the mandate for this advocacy office, and it was the Secretary-General who appointed Olara Otunnu as the special envoy for children in armed conflict. We try to act as a voice for children in conflict, to prick the consciousness of the international community. We also try to provide intellectual leadership on the issues of children in armed conflict, and place the issue on the top of UN member countries' agendas. For instance, a key aspect of the mandate has been to advocate in the frame of the UN Security Council to ensure that children affected by armed conflict are taken as an integral part of the peace and security agenda. As a result, today we have five resolutions of the Council devoted specifically to this issue, which provide a framework of protection for children on the ground. Each year for the last three seasons the Secretary-General has submitted a "naming and shaming list" as an annex in his annual report on war-affected children, which names specific parties – both

- family as an adult.
- I have thought about how a family of my own will or will not play a part in my future.
- I know how to meet new people outside of school (e.g. friends, romantic partners).
- I've thought about where in the world I would like to live after graduation.
- I know how to maintain the relationships I've built at Macalester after I leave here.
- I know how to establish myself in a new community.
- I've thought about what it means to be part of a community beyond college.

If you would like to talk about any of these areas in more depth, feel free to come by the Career Development Center and schedule an appointment to see one of the career counselors. They will help you build the tools you will need for life after Macalester.

(Source: <http://www.cce.columbia.edu/>).

## Featured Article

### STRATEGY FOR COMPLETING JOB APPLICATIONS

Everything you do as a job-seeker should be done with a strategy -- a self-marketing strategy. So, of course, there is a strategy for completing job applications.

Why do employers use job applications? Many employers use applications as a way of standardizing the information they obtain from all job-seekers, including some things that you would not normally put on your resume. Your goal is to complete the application as completely and honestly as you can -- all the time remembering that the application is a key marketing tool for you in the job-hunting process. Remember that some employers will use your application as a basis for deciding whether to call you for an interview.

governments and insurgencies - who use children as soldiers and commit other grave violations against children such as abduction, rape and other grave sexual violence, killing and maiming of children, attacks on schools and hospitals, and the hindering of humanitarian access for children.

At this very moment, the Security Council is discussing a new resolution in which targeted measures will be applied against the violators. Our aim is to shift the issue of children in conflict from being perceived as a "soft issue" to be accepted as a core peace and security concern. In many ways, this is a moment of truth for the Security Council and for the international community. We have specific information on who is doing what to children. Will those who have the power to do so make a stand on behalf of children? Over the past years we have also strategically engaged other key constituencies such as media, the academic community, regional organizations, private sector, NGOs, faith-based groups and, of course, children and young people themselves. The aim is to create a critical mass of advocacy and outrage, which will bring to an end this abomination.

### **CDC: What does a normal day on the job look like for you?**

**Tonderai:** There are phases when we spend most of my time in the field, in order to bear witness on the ground and advise on the design and implementation of programs. We take about four such trips per year, and during those trips we meet with government officials, communities and children, visit refugee camps, negotiate with rebel leaders to persuade or pressure them to make a commitment to stop raiding schools, raping young girls, and recruiting children. We are also ensuring that where there are actual on-going peace processes, such as in Sudan right

And before you head out the door to start submitting applications, make sure you have all the key information you need to complete them, such as all your employment and educational information, names and contact information of references, salary history, social security number, licenses, and military records. It's always better to have too much information than not enough. And if you have a resume, be sure to bring multiple copies with you.

One other precaution before heading out the door. Dress nicely and put some time into basic interview preparation, because you never know when you might actually be asked to talk with the hiring manager -- or even have a job interview on the spot.

And once you get to actually completing the application, here are some other pointers:

- Read and follow instructions carefully. While most applications are pretty standard, it does not hurt to take a few minutes to review each one. Attention to details is an important job-seeker trait. Here's a sample job application.

- Complete the application as neatly as possible. Take your time completing it. If your penmanship is difficult to read, always take even extra time so that the writing looks professional. If you can complete the application online, even better.

- Tailor your answers to the job you are seeking. Most applications ask for details about your work history, and just as with your resume, you want to tailor your responses to showcase the skills you will use in the job you are applying for. No, this advice does not mean you should lie about your experiences. Always tell the truth on job applications.

- Don't provide any negative information. Remember that the job application is an initial screening device, so you do not want to have

now, that children's concerns are integrated into the peace agreement. This makes a huge difference in the post-conflict recovery and reconstruction phase. During the rest of the year, I lobby and negotiate with regional organizations and UN member countries, and we prepare three major reports each year to the Security Council, the General Assembly and the Commission on Human Rights. Right now I am spending most of my time in negotiations with the 15 members of the Security Council on this new resolution for children affected by armed conflict. Overall, this is not your regular nine-to-five job, particularly since the "business day" of many of my colleagues in the field begin at odd hours of the night or morning New York time. Sometimes I am in the office in the early morning hours to be able to participate in a particular conference call with the field missions.

**CDC: What advice would you give to a Macalester student who is interested in pursuing a job or internship at the United Nations or any of its agencies? For example, is a Master's Degree a requirement for all entry-level positions?**

**Tonderai:** In general, you need a Master's Degree, or you need to be enrolled in a Master's Programs in order to be eligible for an internship. Our office has some flexibility in terms of this criterion. An internship is a good starting experience. In regards to jobs at the United Nations, the competition is very high, and there are limited positions available. The best way to go about seeking a career at the United Nations is to take the National Competitive Recruitment Exam. Each year, the nationals of countries that are underrepresented at the UN are eligible to apply to take a recruitment exam, and there is no M.A. requirement for that. You have to have a BA, and you are

any information that is going to be the cause for you to not get the job interview. Do not volunteer any negative information. For example, when asked why you left your last job, do not say your boss hated you or had a vendetta against you -- even if you believe it to be true. On the other hand, if have a criminal record and the application asks you about it (and many do), then you need to be honest about it -- but if there were circumstances or lessons you learned, try to find a way to explain them.

- Proofread and double-check your answers before submitting the application. Make sure you have completed all sections -- and fix any errors.

*(Source: Dr. Randall S. Hansen is a tenured, associate professor of marketing in the School of Business Administration at Stetson University in DeLand, Florida. He is an author and presenter of hundreds of publications and papers.)*

## Suggestion Box



## REFERENCES

If you desire references or letters of recommendations from your professors or supervisors for scholarships, internships, jobs, or graduate or professional study, ask them to think it over and you'll check back with them in a day or two. They may want to peruse their records of how you've done as a student or student employee before they commit to giving others their opinion of you. And since many times, there are deadlines for providing such references or recommendations, be sure to make your requests plural in a timely fashion. Finally, never include a professor or supervisor as a reference on your resume without his or her approval in advance.

*(Source: Thirty-Five Suggestions for College Students by Dr. Gwen Brown and Dr. Matt Franck.)*

able to take the exam in one of several different occupational groups. Certain countries, mainly European, also offer Junior Professional Officer programs, where they will pay the salary of an individual for the period of two years but "lend" the person to the UN. There are JPOs working in entry-level professional positions in all parts of the UN. After two years they do a job search within the system, but as internal candidates. I would also mention the UN Guided Tours office, which recruits young people every year. The Guided Tours is an excellent way to really learn the work of the organization. It is the best possible training program. It is a stepping stone to all sorts of careers in the UN. For instance, I have several colleagues in the Secretary-General's office who began their careers in the UN as Tour Guides. For anyone who is interested in working for the United Nations, above all I would advise them to really consider very carefully. It is a difficult career in many ways, because you have to be extremely mobile and go to some of the toughest places in the world. It's hard on your family, and on your own health. I spent two years on assignment in Sierra Leone and Liberia, during which time I had malaria four times and lost good friends and colleagues. And there are tremendous frustrations in working on human issues in a political house, which is what the UN is. I actually received similar advice from Kofi Annan while I was a student at Macalester. At the time, he was on the Board of Trustees and would visit campus every year. Some of us would hang out in the Alumni House during those times, in hopes of speaking with Kofi Annan. He really gave us a lot of time and great advice. He said that most enter the UN as idealists, become cynics, before becoming realists. For me the last few years have certainly been a sobering experience, and I can't say that I am the idealist that I was at Macalester.

## Featured Fellowship



### CONGRESSIONAL FELLOWSHIPS ON WOMEN AND PUBLIC POLICY

WREI awards annual fellowships to a select number of graduate students with a proven commitment to equity for women. WREI Fellows gain practical policymaking experience and graduate credit as they work from January to August as Congressional legislative aides in Washington, D.C. Fellows receive stipends for tuition and living expenses.

Established in 1980, the WREI Fellowship program is designed to encourage:

- more effective participation by women in the formulation of policy options
- promote activities that encourage the translation of research into policy

raise awareness that national and international issues concerning women are interdependent

- better understanding of how policies affect women and men differently
- greater appreciation of the fact that issues often defined as "women's issues" are really of equal importance to men.

**Fellowship applications are due by May 20, 2005.** Fellows are selected on the basis of academic competence as well as their demonstrated interest in the public policy process. They are expected to be articulate and adaptable and to have strong writing skills. Only students who are currently in, or have recently completed, a graduate or professional-degree program at an accredited institution in the United States are eligible.

**CDC: You must see a lot of heartache and feel a lot of frustration through your job. How do you manage to stay hopeful?**

**Tonderai:** This work has taken a tremendous toll, particularly the two years in Sierra Leone and Liberia. That experience changed me completely. It gives you a sadness that you can't shake. I can't say that I have a formula, but you just have to find your personal solace in whatever way that you can. I read a lot out of my field to escape. For example, right now I am re-reading an old favorite *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy*. That actually takes me back to Mac, where I heard Douglas Adams read from his book at the Hungry Mind. Right now, I am rereading Alexander Dumas' *The Count of Monte Cristo*, and I am loving it as much as I did years ago. My father recently published a book on Zimbabwe that I am also enjoying at present. I play tennis and watch soccer, and I am blessed with remarkable and understanding family and friends. At the end of the day, you have to focus on the positives, and keep the victories in your heart.

**CDC: Where do you see yourself five years from now?**

**Tonderai:** I actually have no idea. I have never pre-meditated a career. I suppose that in life much depends on the direction of the wind when you step out of the door on the day of Commencement. There can be a lot of pressure to have everything figured out, but I have never really had anything quite figured out. The biggest transformation for me, particularly these last few years, is that I am no longer that anxious about not knowing "where to from here." I try to live every day as well as I can, and put all the positive energy that I have into what I am doing. And I have faith that positive energy and living life in good spirit keeps you on the "right" path,

For more information about the Congressional Fellowships, visit their web site at:

<http://www.wrei.org/fellowships/information.htm>

whatever your path may be, even if your path is not always clear to you. Of course you do need to plan a little and set yourself goals, because these give you purpose, direction and momentum. In five years, perhaps I will still be working for the United Nations, or maybe I will be teaching tennis, preferably somewhere warm.

**CDC: So, do you ever “hang out” with Kofi?**

**Tonderai:** I am sorry to disappoint you by telling you that I probably saw more of Kofi Annan when I was a student at Macalester, than I do now working in the same building. I sometimes see him in meetings, but he is a very busy man, and he whisks off quickly after. But he does throw a Christmas bash every year at his residence in New York for members of his immediate office. I have had a chance to speak to him on those occasions.

**CDC: So there is no after-work happy hour at the UN pub, where you can sit down with Kofi at the end of the day, have a drink, and share your Macalester memories?**

**Tonderai:** No, but that’s probably the answer I should have made up not to disappoint the Macalester students!

**CDC: Tonderai, we thank you for taking time to share your valuable and insightful experiences at the United Nations with us, and we wish you a wonderful and relaxing summer!**

For more information about UN’s National Competitive Recruitment Exam, see:

<http://www.un.org/Depts/OHRM/examin/exam.htm>

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